

The DINGLEY bill is reported to have more than enough votes in the Senate to pass it.

The retro-acting feature of the DINGLEY tariff bill will be seen when that measure gets in operation and other countries begin to discriminate against our meats, cereals and farm machinery.

That a big New York umbrella house should have failed at this season, when floods and rains are reported from all quarters, seems to indicate that some of the people must be staying out in the wet.

Cuban news has dropped out of sight, not because of a peaceful settlement of the trouble down there, but because all the imaginative correspondents for American papers ran off to Greece to work on the big war.

The physicians to his majesty King GEORGE, of Greece, have advised that he had better leave the country because of the fact that the climate does not agree with him. It must be too hot for this royal blood over there.

Our new Secretary of Agriculture, is a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, and his paternal grand-daddies were the first men to introduce the Ayrshire cows and the Clydesdale horses. This being the case everyone can soon look up his pedigree.

The frightful holocaust in Paris has set the world to wondering at the proneness of humanity to be unreasonable in times of peril. Had a panic not followed the discovery of the fire in the fatal bazaar there would not have been hundreds of lives lost.

It invariably happens that whenever a minister gets courageous, and godly enough to hew near the line he blazes his own way out of the pulpit he fills. The church going people, now-a-days, don't want anyone's corns trampled upon, even if they be those of the devil.

One of Clearfield's borough officials distinguished himself, the other day, by getting drunk and riding around that town on an old mule that two men were driving at break-neck speed. Such performances go to prove that all the asses are not of the long eared variety.

Governor BLACK has signed the "greater New York bill" and the Empire State now has the second largest city in the world. It has a population of three and one-half million and we suppose it extends all the way from Ft. Hamilton to Albany. Will the Irish police it?

The hanging of a "blue gum" negro that is to take place in Georgia, on the 21st, is looked upon down there as a great event. "Blue gum" negroes are scarce as chicken teeth, but are usually worse than the devil, himself, and about the only thing that can be done with them is hanging.

Col. and Mrs. JOHN HAY have already been rolled around in the royal carriages of the court of St. James, though they have been in England only a few weeks. We have heard nothing of the tolysm which Republicans ranted so much about when Ambassador BAYARD was honored with similar courtesies.

General MILES sailed for Europe, on Tuesday, at the government's expense, to study the foreign war situation and get a few pointers on the way the armies of England, France, Germany and Russia are organized. If he has a good time, that is his business, but we don't want to have any need for the information he might pick up.

Rev. Dr. HARCOURT, the Baltimore minister who was called to one of the fashionable Methodist churches in Philadelphia, has resigned because his congregation wouldn't countenance a crusade that he contemplated making against the devil in nine sermons. It might have been all right had the Doctor not announced that he was going to knock the devil out of Quakerdom in just nine rounds, for the people down there are not used to doing things so fast.

Philadelphia has been unable to conform her ways to the young Presbyterian minister who rides a bicycle, parts his hair in the middle and smokes cigarettes, so she has asked him to retire before the awful example turns the head of her youth. The young minister is not going to be chased out, however, and it is now reasonably certain that Philadelphia will soon become as swift a town as Tyrone, whence this young expounder of blue stocking-foreordination theories of salvation was popped into notoriety.

United States Senator JONES, of Nevada, just now holds the balance of power in the matter of tariff legislation in Congress. The finance committee of the Senate being made up of an equal number of Democrats and Republicans his is the deciding vote. His deliberations. Being a free silverite there is a possibility of his refusing to agree to allow the DINGLEY schedules to become a law and in such an event he will have defeated the means to the very end the silverites and tariff reformers are seeking. Senator JONES ought to realize that there is only one way of defeating the schemes of the jobbers in gold and monopolies and it is by giving them unrestricted sway to practice their extortionate legislation on the masses. Let the tariff bill pass. Give the people the surfeit that it will surely bring them and Senator JONES will find that the Republicans have defeated themselves.

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Bribery in State Legislatures.

Among the other faults of state Legislators, in these later days, the taking of bribes has become scandalously conspicuous. As a rule that class of lawmakers are extravagant and unfaithful in the performance of their representative duty, but as if this wasn't bad enough, they are allowing their votes to be influenced by money considerations.

This, no doubt, was always the case in state Legislatures to a limited degree, for in bodies of that kind there are likely to be some venal characters who are for sale. But never before the present period had such corrupt practices become an open scandal.

Bribery is now being publicly charged against members of Legislatures in three different States. It is scarcely necessary to mention that they are Republican Legislatures, and that all of the charges are in connection with acts passed for the promotion of corporate interests.

In Illinois warrants have been sworn out for the arrest of State Senators who are charged with having been influenced with money to vote for a fifty years extension of a street railway franchise in Chicago. The bill was passed with utter disregard to the rights of the public, and the senatorial culprits are to be prosecuted for having been bribed to vote for it.

Chicago people have adopted a more effective way of treating this evil than by having it handed over to a legislative investigating committee that would be sure to white-wash it. The latter is the method usually adopted in the Pennsylvania Legislature. But in Illinois the citizens got onto the scheme of bribing that was being worked for the passage of the bill, and employed detectives to watch the movements of the suspected Legislators. By this means facts were ascertained that will convict them of bribery.

Things certainly have come to a pretty pass when the public interest and safety shall require the employment of a corps of detectives at the different state capitals to expose the corrupt doings of the lawmakers, but this method will have to be adopted for the public's protection if Republican practices continue to prevail in state Legislatures.

New York is another State in which members of the Legislature sold their votes. Names are openly mentioned in connection with bribery practiced by the New York gas trust for the defeat of a bill, and by corporations interested in the emancipation of the LUXOW anti-trust bill. The charges involve a large number of Senators and Assemblymen.

In our own state Senate there is a charge of bribery in connection with insurance legislation, implicating parties who are said to have made \$50,000 by their corrupt conduct in the matter. With much difficulty and evident reluctance this case has been submitted to investigation, but with very little probability of any earnest endeavor to get at the facts.

These cases are the surface indications of a venal spirit that pervades the Legislatures of most of the States. No other abuse in public affairs compares with this as a danger to the interests of the people and the welfare of the State. As law is the very basis of government, the bribery of lawmakers undermines the public safety by corrupting the law-making power.

This scandalous and dangerous state of affairs is due to the influence of the money power to which Republicanism always panders and which is the favorite object of its legislation. When monied organizations like the gas trust, of New York, the YERKES street railway company, of Chicago, and the Standard oil company which has had dealings with Pennsylvania's lawmakers, go into state Legislatures and secure the passage of bills that conflict with the public interest and are not wanted by the people, there is no other way to explain how they succeed in doing it except by the purchase of enough votes to secure what they want. There can be no doubt that in such cases they pay their money for the service rendered.

And it is a circumstance which should not be overlooked, that this bribery is going on in law-making bodies that were put in power by a party which in the recent election claimed to be the guardian of the financial honor and preserver of the public credit, and that this corruption of legislation is practiced in the interests of corporations, trusts and syndicates that poured their millions into the Republican campaign boodle fund to defeat the desires of "republicans" and "anarchists" by which the honor of the nation and the public safety were alleged to have been endangered.

The fact that this legislative corruption widely exists is evinced by cases of bribery in various state Legislatures. But what are the people going to do about it? Will they continue to allow the law-making power to remain in the corrupt hands which now exercise it in most of the States, and perpetuate the rule of a party that has converted the legislative service into a money-making arrangement between the bribe givers and the bribe takers?

Interest on State Money.

No abuse connected with the state government is more suggestive of corrupt practice than the manner in which the state money has been placed in banking institutions without any interest being paid to the Commonwealth for the use of it. The custom for years past has been to have very large amounts of the public money disposed of in this way, sometimes as much as three or four millions, from which the State derives no profit at all. But it is not to be supposed that no one receives a profit for the use of it. Interest is paid on it at such a rate as may be determined between the officials who control it and the banks that are allowed to have the advantage of it in their business. The increment is a personal gain that is counted among the official perquisites, or is used for political purposes.

In whatever light it may be viewed such a method of financing exerts a demoralizing influence. It is a source of corrupt gain to treasury officials; it robs the State of what belongs to it instead of to its servants; it supplies the means of political corruption, and it is an inducement to state officials to withhold the payment of money that is due for State purposes, as it is to their advantage to retain, as long as possible, money on which they are receiving a bonus for its use. This is the reason why funds due from the State for school and charitable purposes, and other state obligations, are often so slow in being paid, although there is known to be a large treasury balance that should be available for that purpose.

This long continued cheating of the State out of interest she should have for the use of her money, calculated to average over \$100,000 every year, has been a conspicuous scandal in its treasury management. There has been frequent demand that this should be corrected, and when at this session boss QUAY introduced his fake reform bills, the opposite faction brought in a bill requiring banks to pay interest on deposits of state money. QUAY does not favor such a measure, as it would close the source from which the state machine derives much of the money it uses in politics. It would be too scandalous to openly defeat a bill that is demanded by every consideration of official honesty and fairness to the tax payers, and so an opposition state interest bill has been introduced with the design that by their conflicting with each other, and in consequence of the contention over them, both may fail.

An abuse that has been so productive of official spoils and election boodle stands but little chance of being corrected by a Republican Legislature. Such a reform measure can be secured, and over a hundred thousand dollars rescued annually from the official sharks for the benefit of the tax payers, only by the election of a different kind of Legislators from those which the Republican party sends to Harrisburg.

Tariff Trouble.

The tariff mongers at Washington are having trouble of their own. After their bill has gone from the House, where it was shaped exactly to suit the taste of the trusts and other interested beneficiaries, it has been carefully examined by the Senate committee and found that, as a revenue measure, it won't answer. It contains any amount of protection of the MCKINLEY sort, but it will be short in raising the needed amount of revenue by about \$70,000,000.

The reason advanced for ripping up the Wilson tariff and substituting it by a Republican measure was that it was not productive of enough revenue to meet the needs of the government. The figuring of the Senate committee experts discloses the startling fact that there will be a greater shortage under the DINGLEY act, if something is not done to remedy such a deficiency.

To meet this difficulty they propose to fall back upon the experiment of increasing the tax on beer about a dollar a barrel, by which \$30,000,000 may be secured, and they also have under consideration a tax on tea and coffee by which some \$30,000,000 more may be raised. The beer tax was proposed by the Democrats in the last Congress in preference to taxing the necessities of life, but it was rejected by the Republicans as a free trade proposition. The defects of DINGLEY'S measure as a revenue producer will compel the Republicans not only to resort to beer for revenue, but may also drive them to the less justifiable expedient of taxing tea and coffee.

Senator M. L. McQUOWN introduced a bill in the Senate, the other day, authorizing the appropriation of \$5,000 for the erection of a monument to the late ANDREW G. CURTIN, provided Bellefonte raises a like sum for that purpose.

The Governor has issued a proclamation making Saturday, May 15th, a public holiday, and inviting all citizens of the State to the unveiling of the equestrian monument to GEORGE WASHINGTON, in Philadelphia, on that date.

Jones Threatens Obstruction.

The supporters of the DINGLEY tariff bill in Congress are considerably embarrassed by the situation into which that measure has drifted. They find it so situated that JONES of Nevada may have the power to determine what shall be done with it. Whether it shall be a howling success or a flat failure may depend upon what he shall say about it.

This embarrassing situation arises from the fact that JONES, as a member of the sub-committee of the Senate finance committee, had the casting vote that controlled its action. The sub-committee has reported the bill, and so it is seen that JONES, who had the controlling vote, is a very important factor in the proceedings.

It is feared that the Nevada Senator insisted upon his own terms before he allowed the bill to proceed on its course. In the game of tariff grab he doesn't want the interest of his own constituents to be overlooked. For example, he believes that there ought to be a pretty stiff duty on the cheap wool produced by the sheep of the Rocky Mountain regions, for the benefit of the sheep raisers of that section. He also wants a duty on hides for the advantage of the cattle ranches. They are beginning to raise some beet sugar out in Nevada and he believes that it ought to be "protected" by an increase of the sugar duty. There are other local interests of his section upon which he wants to confer the benefits of the protective system, and it is feared that he may go so far as to demand that something must be done for the silver miners of his region as one of the conditions upon which he will allow the Senate to proceed with its work on the tariff bill.

That JONES' demands are likely to give trouble, is owing to the fact that they conflict with the interest of the eastern tariffites. He wants more than they are willing to allow, but as the tariff game is entirely a selfish one, each section and interest going in for all the spoils they can possibly get, there is no reason why those whom JONES represents shouldn't have a right to grab along with the rest. The cheap wool, hides, beet sugar, borax, lead ore and silver of Nevada and the adjoining sections have as good a claim to tariff protection as the products of the factories, mills and mines owned by the millionaire capitalists of the East.

If we are to have a tariff, let's have a real stiff one that will show no partiality to any special favorites. The beneficiaries shouldn't be selected. But it is believed that JONES will be eased off by some arrangement that will induce him to allow the Senate to proceed with its tariff job.

Some More of Prosperity's Dough Cake.

Some men in the Philipsburg region are reported to be whistling, just now, with more than common energy for the prosperity that was promised them in the advent of Mr. MCKINLEY'S election. Notwithstanding the repeated failure of the tariff agitators to bring about the beneficial business conditions they prate so much about, but which no one has ever seen, men go on voting them into power just as if all their promises were as readily fulfilled as made.

In this part of the country no district has been so greatly affected by such humbuggery as Philipsburg, where business enterprises are of such a nature that the slightest depression is felt at once, in almost every branch of trade. The thousands of miners over there have been told, and told again, that a tariff is the only thing that will save them, yet with tariffs in full bloom they see their wages continually falling and their condition becoming more pitiful every day. When the miners are not prosperous other business is necessarily affected and none sooner than the grocers. It is from a firm in this line of business that a story comes that shows the dough in the big prosperity cake that was promised voters who supported MCKINLEY last fall.

It is said that PLATT, BARBER & Co., wholesale grocers at Philipsburg and DuBois, a firm that employs many men and has done a large business, heretofore, has just cut down the wages of all men in its service. No one denies this firm the right to conduct its business just as it pleases, and there is little doubt that the extremities of the times warrant the cut, but it is whispered around that last fall members of the firm let the employees know that it would be highly the proper thing to vote for MCKINLEY and that in the event of his election they need not be surprised to find business much improved and wages going up.

MCKINLEY was elected and the employees of PLATT, BARBER & Co., probably threw their hats higher than the tower on the public building over there, when they heard the news and thought of big money that would soon be theirs. But what are they doing now? "Sawing wood," we hope, and waiting for another chance to vote for the party that is so swift to promise and so slow to fulfill.

Legislative Demoralization.

It is now generally conceded that state Legislatures have grown to be the most worthless and disreputable bodies that figure in the public affairs of this country. This deterioration is particularly conspicuous where the legislative majorities are the product of Republican predominance.

Bad as it is, the law-making body at Harrisburg can be matched in general good-for-nothingness by the Republican Legislature of New York. While Pennsylvania Senators are charged with having accepted a bribe of \$50,000 for certain insurance legislation, New York lawmakers are named whose votes were bought by the New York gas trust.

This kind of corruption is the natural fruit of the Republican policy of catering to the interest of capitalists and monied corporations. Legislation for the working people furnishes no boodle for Legislators who are "on the make," and therefore it is impossible to get the lawmakers at Harrisburg to give their attention to legislation favorable to the laboring class; but when rich insurance companies, gas trusts, standard oil monopolies, and other capitalistic organizations that have the means of making the matter "interesting," apply to such bodies as the Pennsylvania and New York Legislatures for favors, they have no difficulty in getting what they want. Those who have observed these matters have noticed the difficulties that always baffle the working people in getting legislation that would be to their benefit, while everything works as slick as grease when a corporation like the Standard oil company comes to Harrisburg and asks for the passage of bills that give it the control of a product that is worth millions of dollars.

It is indeed deplorable that lawmakers should be controlled by such influences. It is equally deplorable that, in addition to conduct that has so much the appearance of being directed by a corrupt agency, there is a recklessness in the expenditure of the state money that has exhausted the treasury and created the necessity for increased taxation. This disgraceful state of affairs in our Legislature and state administration has grown in proportion to the confidence reposed by the people in the dominant party, the evil, alike shameful and injurious, increasing with the increased Republican majorities. But are not the people largely to blame for putting the Republican leaders and Legislators under the impression that however badly they may behave they can count upon the endorsement of an overwhelming majority at every election? There could not be a more effective way of making faithless public servants more unfaithful, and increasing the profligacy of those who find their profit in the misuse of the public money.

Finance Committee Reports That Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—The tariff bill was reported to the Senate to-day, to the surprise of Senators and the public. When the Senate finance committee met to-day the idea prevailed that the bill would be held in committee for two days. All the members of the committee were present. The Democrats examined the bill for nearly an hour, making running comments upon it. They announced that they were against the bill as a whole. They soon understood that Senator Jones, of Nevada, was going to vote with the Republicans and realized that there was no possibility of changing the bill. All the Republicans, with Senator Jones, of Nevada, voted for the motion and all the Democrats voted against it, the vote standing 11 to 5. Later in the Senate Mr. Aldrich announced that he would call up the bill on Tuesday, May 18th.

The Republican members of the committee say there is no statement to be made now as to the effect of the bill, the amount of revenue to be raised by it, or the reductions. When the bill is taken up in the Senate Mr. Aldrich will make such a statement in the opening speech. It is estimated that the increased revenue to be raised from beer would be \$13,000,000 and from tea \$10,000,000. Senator Jones of Arkansas, the Democratic tariff leader, said that he expected there would be about six weeks' debate on the bill.

Several sections in the last part of the Dingley bill, which re-enacted the present law are stricken out. This will have the effect of leaving the present law stand and avoid discussions to a great extent. The comments of the bill are of course partisan.

Some features are very much disliked by even Republicans, but upon the whole the Republicans commend and the Democrats condemn it, though members of the committee say that the sub-committee has in many places improved upon the Dingley bill.

The new bill is radically different from the Dingley bill, practically amounting almost to another measure. Many important schedules were re-written entirely. The time for the bill to take effect is fixed for the 1st of May 1st, as provided in the House and the words in the first paragraph "or withdrawn for consumption" are stricken out.

Surely They Wouldn't Have Anyone Else's Wives.

From the Bloomsburg Sentinel.

The State editorial association will be coming summer hold its annual meeting at Bradford, Pa., and from this point vibrate in excursions to various points of interest. An oil well and several editors will be shot on this occasion. The time of the annual occasion is fixed for the week beginning June 21st. The great Kinzua viaduct, Lake Chautauqua and Niagara Falls are to be the objective points. The attendance of a large number of editors and their own wives is already assured.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Nazareth, Lehigh county, will have a national bank. Lowlands below the Reading have been flooded by the booming Schuylkill river. Many Reading houses are being searched for plunder secreted by youthful thieves. District attorney J. M. Shindel and Miss Carrie L. Patschke were married at Lebanon Monday evening.

Six-year-old Milton Warner's mother leaped into a mill pond and rescued him from drowning at Mohrsville. A runaway mine car at the Milnesville colliery, Hazleton, killed miner Ludock and badly hurt Andrew Tunko. A burning cigar stump thrown into the Schuylkill river at Reading fired oil upon its surface but did no damage.

Seven-year-old Frank Benson was drowned at Weatherly before playmates could the creek could rescue him. Dallastown United Brethren church celebrated its centennial Sunday. Bishop J. Dickson, of Chambersburg, officiated. The telegraph operator, Irwin Sellers, who was killed by a train at Myerstown, was a son of Mrs. Lavinia Sellers, of Telford.

While he was fighting a big Newfoundland dog that furiously attacked him at Myerstown, Charles Carver's jaw was broken. First Defenders have sent a committee from Reading to Washington, D. C., to ask for the medals of honor to which they are entitled. An engine collided with and wrecked the carriage in which ex-Representative R. F. Swartz was driving, near Stroudsburg, and he was injured and his horse killed.

Richard Faulk was fatally hurt under a falling tree that he was chopping near Gowen City, and George Zaltsu received his death injuries by a fall of coal at Bear valley. I. G. Kase, of Shamokin, and George J. Barnhart, of Delaware township, have announced themselves as candidates for the Democratic nomination of jury commissioner of Northumberland county.

At Williamsport Wednesday morning, Jacob Whiteman, a shoe-maker, fell while walking on Penn street and in a few minutes expired. Heart failure was the cause of his death. He was 65 years old. Miss Jennie Miller, of Bradford, on February 3rd, 1895, fell on Bradford's ice covered streets and sustained a broken hip. She instituted suit for \$50,000. A jury has awarded her \$3,000. Miss Miller will be a cripple for life.

General Heckman, president of the Sugar Valley insurance company, says that misleading reports have been circulated about his company having such heavy losses in the last few months. He states that an insurance company must expect some heavy losses, but the Sugar Valley company has been fortunate enough as to have only a \$2 loss since January 1st 1897, and the losses suffered in 1896 have been paid.

Monday afternoon while Martin Lee, of Pine, was driving along the river road near the Beech Creek railroad bridge he dropped the lines to adjust his overcoat, when the horse started, and in his haste to get the lines he pulled the wrong one, throwing horse, buggy and occupant over the bank into the river. Young Lee escaped with a lame leg. The buggy was badly wrecked, but the horse was not injured.

Last Friday night a barn belonging to Thomas Smith, the well known lumberman on Kettle creek, was destroyed by fire. A team of horses, a lot of lumberman's tools and harness were destroyed. A team of horses that were in the barn perished in the flames. Saturday evening while men were hunting around among the ashes, the charred remains of a man were found. He had been one of Mr. Smith's employes and had evidently been asleep in the barn.

At Williamsport Wednesday morning, Judge Mayer rendered a decision in the case of the city of Williamsport vs. the Williamsport water company. The defendant company some time ago appealed from the decision of alderman Batzle, who had imposed a fine on the company of over \$9,000 for excavating the streets in greater distances than 400 feet as provided by the ordinance. Judge Mayer's decision is against the city as it sustains the appeal.

The little village of New Millport, located along the Beech Creek road, fourteen miles from Clearfield, was almost destroyed by fire which broke out Thursday morning in the store of Peter Erhard. This building, which contained the post office, was soon enveloped in flames, which spread to D. W. Cathcart's hotel, A. J. Smith's dwelling house, store room and barn, the Methodist Episcopal church and a house belonging to Mrs. Markle, all of which were reduced to ashes. The loss is estimated at \$1,000, with little insurance. Origin of the fire is unknown.

For the first time in the history of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, when the entire force turned out on parade, those commands having full dress uniforms will be permitted to wear them on parade in Philadelphia on the 15th inst. Several infantry regiments throughout the guard have full dress outfits, all differing from each other in design. The Philadelphia city troops have outfits of the United States army pattern. This variation from the old rule of requiring all to appear in the fatigue uniform will provide an opportunity to view the guard in its dress regalia and fatigue outfit at the same time, and will probably determine whether all shall be provided with a dress uniform of the same pattern to be worn on parade occasions.

David Long, a resident of Bedford county, living on the Long homestead, about one mile south of Baker's Summit, committed suicide Monday morning by hanging himself to a log in his sheep stable. He was found about 11 o'clock, dead. The cause of the rash act was financial loss. It seems that Long had gone on paper for a friend living near him. This friend failed about three months ago and Long was compelled to make good the amount he had gone on the notes for. This will take his farm and the thought of leaving the home that had been his for so many years prayed so on his mind as to cause his end. The deceased was elder in the Brethren (Dunkard) church. He leaves a wife and six children. Conductor King, who was killed last year at the time of the semi-centennial was a nephew of the deceased.