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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1894.

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The New York Times says "the income tax is a transitory Populist fancy that will not continue in force three years." If the Republican party comes into power we must agree with the Times. But if asked why the Republican party was so tremendously defeated when in full sympathy with no income tax and no tariff reform, we should be obliged to answer Cleveland promised, both to the tired sovereign power, and that's why he won.

SERVICE PENSION.

Senator Turpie recently introduced a service-pension bill which provides, in addition to all invalid pensions which have been or may be granted, for all men who served in the army or navy during the war, a service pension at the rate of one cent for each day's service rendered; provided that every such pensioner who is rated at less than \$8 per month shall be increased to \$8 upon his reaching the age of 60 years, and \$12 per month if unable to perform manual labor. Had the Republican party passed some such bill as this at the close of the war they would not only have saved millions of dollars that have been paid out to claim agents, and doctors and others than the soldiers proper, but they would have placed every soldier under special obligations to them. In their great anxiety however to place all mankind under obligations to them, they have lost forever just about one half the soldier vote. Talk as they like about Democratic treatment of pensioners, it takes at least two political parties to meet out exact justice to those who took a hand in saving this country during the war and since the war. Even in the hour of peace there is more or less war over the inequities and injustices engendered by political strife and man's natural greed. And we hold that the party that is freest from inequity and injustice is the one most worthy of survival, and its most apt to succeed in God's providence, even in spite of politicians. If this stand is not partisan we still maintain it is patriotic to advocate with Darwin the survival of the fittest. As for a service-pension, no one but a soldier can get it, and he alone deserves it, in our opinion.

PRESIDENTIAL PROPHECY.

In casting about for Presidential timber it is a little strange that Republicans should first hit upon the objecting and objectionable material that was once condemned, or rather rejected, by the American people after trial, in the person of ex President Harrison. His refusal to accept the proposition thus early is quite as rational as were the modest remarks of the aesthetic Chauncey Depew, who allowed that the candidate who now accepts will want breath before the nominating convention assembles. There is nothing like reserving one's best wind for the homestretch in the mal Presidential race. If Chauncey Depew, a Republican, and Senator Hill a Democrat, should conspire and combine to win the coveted Presidential prize, there is no doubt they could influence more wealth than any two men in America. If like Greeley, Hill should step over to the enemy for the sake of preferment (and he would not have far to step) the Republican party would have in this pair of twin plutocratic representatives a strong ticket, the like of which could not be found from Maine to California, so far as money and its influence goes. But, in the language of Shakespeare, "there is a destiny that shapes our ends, rough hew it how we may," and we are a little apprehensive that neither Hill nor Depew will make it, whatever may fall to the lot of Harrison.

It is now thought the tariff bill will reach final passage by June 10. So it ought.

BUSINESS.

It is just as well, perhaps, that farmers, whether rich or poor, manifest no disposition to corner their products against the consumer. It is just as well, no doubt, that they have no disposition to cease work for commercial or political effect, as other industries do so frequently. It is for the best, likely, that farmers are not combined as a class like corporations and labor unions for self-defense in the general push and scramble for money making that particularly characterizes corporate wealth. And yet the writer has often wondered at it. Wondered that some determined effort has not been made to have as faithful representation in our halls of legislation as our protected manufacturing industries have right along and very carefully guarded. We have often wondered that, for the sake of home and fireside (long since mortgaged beyond redemption in many cases) something has not been done by the farmers except to toil and sweat and be forever hoodwinked by middle men and deceitful politicians. If the farmer presumes to go to town and sell his own products he is very apt to be obliged to pay toll at some gate in the hands of a corporation that is granted the exclusive privilege to take a little care of the highway and tax everybody toll that travels it. He next finds that high protection in the interest of a few smart men owning a market house in town stares him in the face, requiring him to take out a high license or quit selling, except to them, and at their rates. Instead of permitting middle men to dictate to the farmer, we should like to see him able himself to reap what profit can be properly gained on his products, and when a huckster, for instance, says I will pay but 12 cts. a dozen for eggs next week, and 20 cts. for your butter, I hope the Lord will in some way yet enable the farmer to tell that huckster he need not call for his products at any such rates, as they will never enable him to pay current taxes, much less raise a mortgage one-half the value of the farm and which is quite likely to foreclose upon him at any time. We know the farmer is not entirely free from blame for his present utter helplessness. He should realize that he is in the care of those who live by their wits, as they call it.

COMMERCIAL.

Dun's Commercial Agency gives hopeful signs of business improvement, notwithstanding the deplorable condition which we believe to be attributable to over-production, individual and national indebtedness, and the prolonged strikes of capital and labor. The selfish motive that impels capital to strike by closing their works in order to intimidate tariff reformers, or to forestall anticipated legislation, is the same selfish motive that actuates labor to strike themselves out of employment in dull times in the hope either of bettering present conditions or avoiding threatened reductions. In some cases higher rates are sought and strikes ensue in consequence. In other cases strikes have resulted from deliberate provocation on the part of capital. Capital knows full well when to provoke a strike among its employees, as also when to court peace for sake of higher dividends. If business prosperity is dependent upon favorable legislation, then not only manufacturers should receive favorable consideration, but the farmer should also be given an occasional boost at the hands of our lawmakers who seem to be dead in love with our manufacturers some how.

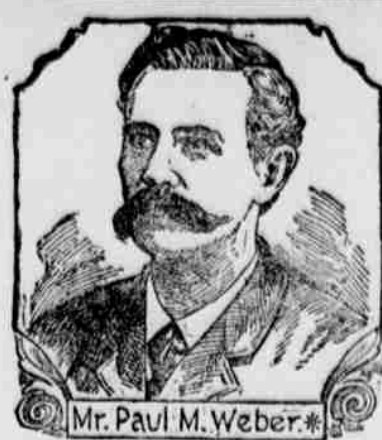
AN EDITOR FOR OFFICE.

Once in awhile a nomination for office falls to the lot of the editor, but twice in awhile they go some other way. One of the exceptional cases to which we refer is the proposition now on paper to nominate the editor of the *Shickelshinny Democrat* for clerk of the courts of Luzerne County. Being a voter within his district we should be pleased to go home and cast our vote in that direction, in case the newspaper fraternity is thus recognized for representation through Deemer Beidleman, the editor referred to. We believe in the first place that the fraternity deserves recognition for the fun it has in advocating the cause of others, and in the second place that Mr. Beidleman will fill the position satisfactorily if elected.

HUNGRY HUNGARIANS.

Hungarians (imported under the free trade privileges granted our corporate powers when they want to keep the American laborer where he belongs) are now leaving our shores for their native homes because of the closing of furnaces, &c. This we regard as an alarming condition of things, and capital ought to see to the stopping of the out flow of Hungarians; for when work resumes it may have a deleterious influence on wages demanded by Americans for *Armenians*, who can tell? Arrest the Hungarians by all means.

The Governor of Michigan has appointed John D. Patten to succeed Senator Stockbridge. As usual, Mr. Patten is a lawyer. We are getting quite a few of them in Congress through death and otherwise.



Mr. Paul M. Weber.

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