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Stuart Robson, the actor, was once a page in the United States senate, his appointment having been due to the efforts of such distinguished southerners as John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis, Henry Clay, Robert Toombs and Alexander Stephens.

Prof. Charles F. Thwing, of the Western reserve university, is a great advocate of foot ball, affirming that it is a very important function in the moral training of young men who are passing through a college curriculum, for a number of reasons.

Isaiah T. Montgomery, of Mound Bayou, Miss., is the only colored mayor in the United States. He is the wealthiest man in the city named, and indeed owns nearly the whole place. Montgomery was born a slave on the plantation of Jefferson Davis.

The curious sight may be seen in Dover, England, of a young tree growing out of a high mill-chimney in a public thoroughfare. Notwithstanding its extraordinary position, the tree has grown two or three feet high. It is believed to have its root in an old nest.

A bronze statue of Theodore Parker, heroic in size, has been placed on the lawn of the First parish (Unitarian) church at West Roxbury by that society, of which Mr. Parker was the pastor when it worshipped in the old meeting-house on Center street, near South, in West Roxbury.

The owner of a tannery in which human skins are sometimes tanned as a matter of accommodation states that in tanning the skin of a Negro a very delicate cuticle peels off, leaving the skin identical with that of a white man. This refutes the assertion that the Negro's color is even "skin deep."

The extension of the use of electricity in British warships, in place of steam, for subsidiary purposes, is to be made the subject of a series of experimental tests in November. At the present time the capstan, steering engines, ventilating fans and derrick hoists are worked by steam power.

Tom Lawson, the Boston plunger, will never go to the poor house, no matter what end the present raids have. Some time ago he bought life insurance annuities which pay to him and his wife during his life \$100 a week. These annuities are so fixed that even Lawson himself can not touch the principal.

Mayor Jerome Dewitt, of Binghamton, N. Y., is doing such a thriving business in marrying couples eloping from Pennsylvania that he has established two of his office employees, a man and a young woman, as permanent best man and bridesmaid, respectively, so as to give future couples all the comforts of a home wedding.

A stone-cutter who was working on the new medical building of Cornell university suddenly fell dead from arsenic poisoning, the arsenic being in the stone on which he was working. Poisoning by inhalation of arsenic is not uncommon. Many cases have been reported in infants, the source of poisoning being the green coloring in wallpaper.

Having looked critically over the autographs of 290 noted men, a writer in the New York Press asserts that the dot over the "i" is sadly neglected. Even the late president was not particular in this respect. He did usually dot the "i" in McKinley, but rarely squandered a speck of ink on either of the two "i"s in William. To do so would have necessitated going back too far.

John D. Rockefeller is following the example of Glandstone and chopping wood as exercise on his road to health at his country seat in Pocantico hills. Mrs. Rockefeller herself looks after the preparation of her husband's meals. The latter can hardly eat a full meal as yet, for he is suffering considerably from indigestion. Besides his woodchopping Mr. Rockefeller exercises with dumbbells and in outdoor walking.

The modeling and carving of an immense frieze on the Stanford university memorial arch marks the completion of a colossal undertaking in sculpture. The arch is over one hundred feet high, and is built of San Jose limestone; running around it at a height of eighty feet is the frieze, illustrating American civilization. The total length of the frieze on the four sides of the structure is 232 feet; its height is twelve feet. It contains 150 heroic figures in high relief.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.

Better Conditions Which Followed Republican Tariff Legislation in 1897.

The New York World, which is far away from the real farmer, takes a rosy view of the general prosperity of those who are engaged in agriculture. These are, in fact, the most prosperous times that farmers have ever seen, all things considered. Everything they have to sell brings good prices in cash. There has not been a season in many years when all the products of the farm have brought better prices. The World, however, is somewhat in error when it declares that the short corn crop is better for the farmer than a full one. This statement is made upon the assumption that the farmer takes to market every bushel of corn that he raises. If such were the case the assumption that the short crop will put more dollars into the farmers' pockets than a full one is true, since the price of corn falls to a low figure, as does every other staple, when the supply is greater than the demand. Fortunately, now that Europe is learning the value of our corn, it is not possible that even in Kansas corn will be cheaper than coal for fuel, since there will be a large export when prices are moderate. There are few good farmers in the land who do not feed more corn than they sell. Now, when prices are so high, they must either feed what they have to keep their stock or dispose of their stock. If they do the first they will have no corn to sell at the high price, and if they sell their stock they will be obliged to restock their farms when the prices of stock are high and the price of corn low. So this old story that a small crop is worth more than a large one is not true, says the Indianapolis Journal.

The World also says that land has advanced in value. This is true, and it is probably due to the fact that the universal prosperity of farmers during the past four years has caused many men to turn to farming as one of the most profitable investments for small amounts of capital and for men who must depend upon their own labor. The market for the farmer is constantly broadening at home and abroad. The manufacturer meets sharp competition in every market in Europe, but as the years pass the greater is the dependence of Europe upon the agricultural products of the United States.

The World also discovers that "there has been a sharp decline in populistic oratory in Kansas, whose bank deposits are \$87,000,000 and whose farmers' debts are rapidly being paid." This is all due to the change which came with the inauguration of William McKinley and his policies. He called congress to revise the tariff; confidence came; industries started up; there was a wider demand for the products of the farm and as soon as the farmer experienced a larger demand he had money with which to purchase the goods of the manufacturer. This prosperity has been growing for five years, until it is now alluded to as an "abounding prosperity," with no signs of halting. No class is more prosperous than the farmers who can tide over short corn crops and other small crops. Banks have sprung up all over the country, and farmers who were borrowing money six years ago and were discouraged now have bank accounts or the equivalent in better conditions. In the midst of this all-round prosperity which followed the tariff legislation of 1897 and the gold standard legislation of the next year there are those, including the New York World, demanding that the present tariff be smashed! Those who are making this demand can never learn from experience, but men who are now prosperous on farms and in factories will not forget the dark days that followed the smashing of the tariff in 1894.

COMMENT AND OPINION.

Bryan is now pleading in his paper for the continuation of the fusion between the democrats and the populists. There are no populists.—Iowa State Register.

The calling of Gov. Shaw adds largely to the distinction of Iowa in the councils of the nation. It may well be a matter of great pride to the people of this state that Iowa has its standing at Washington under the merit system. The men who have won their way to commanding influence have done so by reason of their own strength, loyally supported by the republicans at home.—Sioux City Journal.

Two labor leaders publicly apologized to Senator Hanna, in New York, at the conference to consider the labor question, for having misunderstood and misrepresented his attitude toward wage-earners and trades unions. It is easy to guess what these men think of the newspapers and politicians whose main stock in trading seemed to be the abuse of the Ohio senator as a labor crusher and foe to labor organizations.—Cleveland Leader.

Mr. Bryan used to tell his hearers that republican success in the nation meant low prices for products. He even specified the figures, saying that under republican rule corn would sell for ten cents a bushel. Current quotations at over 70 cents per bushel furnish illuminating testimony to Mr. Bryan's accuracy as a prophet.—Troy Times.

Democrats will see that their party in the house is accepting the leadership of Mr. Bryan by opposing the Philippine policy, which, Mr. Bryan declares, must be the leading issue in 1904.—Indianapolis Journal.

TREASURY'S NEW HEAD.

President Roosevelt's Excellent Selection of a Successor of Secretary Gage.

President Roosevelt has selected one of the forceful men of the country to succeed Secretary Gage, who has determined to retire from the treasury department. Gov. Leslie M. Shaw, of Iowa, who will accept the treasury portfolio after the expiration of his present term of office next month, is a strong man in every respect. He has the hardy physique and well-balanced mentality that are part of his heritage as a son of Vermont, where he was born 54 years ago, combined with the qualities which have developed during most of a lifetime spent in the west. He has the rugged virtues, the spotless integrity, the correctness of principle and the ready common sense which put him fairly among the class of men known as the Lincoln type, says the Troy Times.

An incident which illustrates the character of the new secretary of the treasury is worthy of mention. Six years ago William J. Bryan delivered a speech at Denison, Ia. Mr. Shaw's home. The speech was a fervid argument for free silver and the other financial and economic heresies which Mr. Bryan advocated. Mr. Shaw heard the address, and although he had never until then spoken in public, he resolved to reply to the democratic leader. He did so, and the plain and pungent truths which he told effectively offset the utterances of Mr. Bryan. Mr. Shaw at once leaped to national prominence. The people saw he was a man to be trusted. He has twice been elected governor of the state, and has become known as one who not only holds the soundest views on great public questions, but has the capacity for presenting them in a manner to convince the doubting and expose the fallacies of those who oppose him.

Gov. Shaw is no untried financier. He has long been the president of a national bank, and has business interests in the conduct of which he has shown marked ability and that faithfulness to right principles that he will carry into the administration of the affairs of the office which he is soon to fill. When he becomes the head of the treasury department President Roosevelt will have two Iowa men in his cabinet, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson also being from that state. The great west is getting very substantial recognition in the government, and its representatives at Washington are taking rank as men of the highest ability and acknowledged worth.

BALKED ONCE MORE.

The Free Traders Relinquish All Hope of a Successful Assault on Protection.

The democratic newspapers have abandoned for the time being their attempt to bring about a revision of the tariff at the present session of congress. They have, moreover, lost interest in the question of reciprocity. This is because they have seen a new light. When the late President McKinley made his last speech at the Pan-American exposition, in Buffalo, the free traders thought they saw a chance to drive an entering wedge. They twisted what Mr. McKinley said into a declaration of free trade, and his statement that duties which were no longer needed for purposes of protection might be remitted was taken by them as evidence that he was ready to abandon the entire protection theory. Following up what they said about the late president, they tried to make it appear that President Roosevelt's St. Paul speech was a declaration in favor of free trade. Then they were encouraged to believe that a successful assault on protection could be made this winter. They think so no longer, says the Cleveland Leader.

President Roosevelt's flat-footed declaration in favor of protection in his message, and his further statement that reciprocity could only be encouraged when it is regarded as the handmaiden of protection has opened the eyes of the free traders. They now see that it is idle to hope for tariff legislation at this session of congress, and it will not be surprising if the democrats in the senate line up in opposition to the ratification of the reciprocity treaties that are awaiting action by that body. That would be characteristically democratic and nothing else can be expected.

The opponents of ship subsidies are not inclined even to try to answer Senator Hanna's two arguments in favor of the system. The first of these is that American merchants are paying annually into the pockets of foreign shipowners the enormous sum of \$200,000,000, which should be kept at home. The second argument is that European countries are now paying \$28,000,000 a year in subsidies and are receiving value for their money, so that there is no thought of abolishing the system. Of course there are plenty of other arguments in favor of the subsidy project. But these two are sufficient to confound the opposition.—Troy Times.

Mr. Bryan thinks the democrats in congress have greatly strengthened his party by the stand they took against the Philippine tariff bill. Perhaps they have, but what good will it do if he is to come forward and spoil it.—Indianapolis News (Ind.).

Senator Hanna still maintains that the merchant marine needs the encouragement of a subsidy, and he says that American labor will get a good share of the benefit. The senator is not a man to quit when he believes he is right.—Cleveland Leader.

BURIED IN A MINE.

Tons of Ore Fall Upon Unlucky Workmen.

A Disaster at the Negaunee Shaft in Michigan that Causes Death to at Least 13 Men—A Number of Accidents in Past Years Recalled.

Negaunee, Mich., Jan. 8.—From 13 to 17 miners are thought to have lost their lives as the result of a cave-in at the bottom of the old shaft at the Negaunee mine yesterday. The names of the dead so far as known are: William Williams, married; John Sullivan, single; John Pascoe, single; John Pearce, married; Jacob Hunalla, married.

Hunalla's body has been recovered. Dominio Basso, an Italian, was rescued alive. His story is as follows: "We were sitting around the pump at the bottom of the shaft when, without warning, thousands of tons of ore came down. I remembered no more until I heard the sound of picks and shovels in the hands of the rescuers, and their shouts. When they found me I was in a drift 75 feet from the place where I had been sitting."

Hundreds of men are at the mine, eager to help in the work of rescue, but it is thought the other bodies cannot be found within 24 hours. The Negaunee mine is considered one of the most unlucky properties in the Lake Superior district. Much trouble has resulted in sinking and drifting from surplus water and quicksands.

It was at this mine that \$100,000 was recently expended to sink a shaft to the ledge.

The steam pipes leading to the underground pumps were so damaged that it would be impossible to operate the pumps even if they could be reached, and water is gathering rapidly in the shaft.

The mechanics employed at the various other mines of the steel trust are getting other pumps in condition for operation, but it is problematical whether these can be put into commission soon enough to prevent the water from flooding the mine. The flooding of the mine would result in great loss to the company and would necessitate a suspension of mining work for some time to come.

A big force of rescuers working in relays is making desperate attempts to get to the damaged level before the water reaches it.

If the workmen are not rescued within the next ten or twelve hours all hope of getting them out alive will be abandoned.

THE COST OF WAR.

Boers Lost 18,000 Men Last Year and the British Half That Number.

London, Jan. 8.—A published review of operations in South Africa during the past year, based upon official reports, gives an interesting comparison of Boer and British losses. The review says that the total reduction of the Boer forces, in killed, wounded, taken prisoner and surrendered, amounts to 18,320 men. Out of this total only 7,993 rifles were secured. The captures of Boer ammunition amount to 2,300,000 cartridges. British columns are supposed to have taken all the Boer artillery, amounting to 27 guns exclusive of the two captured by Gen. De Wet at Zeefontein. During the last year a total of 29,882 horses were captured, while of other stock, such as cattle, oxen and sheep, 366,821 head were captured.

The British casualties from actual fighting amounts to only half the those sustained by the Boers, namely 9,113 men, of which 1,313 were taken prisoner, and have since been released. During the last year 4,096 men died of disease, 15 officers and 342 men were accidentally killed and 25,800 men were invalided home.

HE THAWED DYNAMITE.

A Terrible Explosion at West Philadelphia Causes the Death of a Reckless Watchman.

Philadelphia, Jan. 8.—An explosion of dynamite occurred Tuesday in a contractor's tool house beside the Pennsylvania railroad tracks in West Philadelphia. "Doc" Mullen, a watchman, employed by P. Mannus, the contractor, was literally blown to atoms, and a dozen persons living in the vicinity were cut by flying glass from the shattered windows of their houses.

A number of laborers employed by Mannus were at work making excavations along the line of the railroad. The sticks of dynamite used for blasting had been frozen, and Mullen placed them near a stove in the hut to thaw out. The explosion followed, killing Mullen instantly and wrecking the shanty. The pavements for blocks were covered with broken glass from the shattered window panes of the dwellings. Twenty empty passenger coaches standing on a siding of the Pennsylvania railway were damaged. None of the laborers were injured.

The First Real Work.

St. Louis, Jan. 8.—The first construction work on the site of the Louisiana Purchase exposition and world's fair began Tuesday when the building of a new channel and sluiceway to confine the river Des Peres was commenced.

Uncle Sam Has 81,000,000 Children. Washington, Jan. 8.—The census bureau has issued a report announcing that the population of the entire United States, including all outlying possessions, was 84,333,069 in the census year 1900. This is itemized as follows: Continental United States, or United States proper, 75,994,575; Philippines 6,961,339; being the estimate of the statistician to the Philippine commission; Porto Rico 953,243; Hawaii 154,001; Alaska 63,592; Guam 9,000; American Samoa 6,100; persons in the military and naval service of the United States outside of the United States proper, 91,229.

PROMINENT DEMOCRATS.

Three of Them Give Advice to Members of Their Party.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 9.—Jackson day was observed here last night by the New Haven Democratic club. William Jennings Bryan was a guest and chief speaker. More than 100 guests attended the banquet, which was held prior to a public meeting in Music hall.

At the conclusion of the banquet Mr. Bryan was introduced. He said in part: "If I formed my opinion by what I read in the daily press I would come to the conclusion that there are not many democrats left. I cannot in that way find out what is going on among the masses. It is extremely gratifying to me to find, by coming to you and to others, that there are bands of men who are not disheartened by defeat—men who think more of having their party right in principles than to be merely successful. The democratic party has no right to exist except it has principles to exist for, and no principle justifies the existence of a party unless it is a great principle. A principle that is not great enough to die for is not great enough to live for."

At Music hall Mr. Bryan discussed a variety of problems under the general head of "Civilization."

It is impossible to suppress anarchy, he said, by penal statute. It must be overcome by teaching the necessity of government and by making the government so beneficent that men will be willing to die to preserve and protect it. He denied that the money question is a dead issue.

Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—A small circle of the younger democratic lawyers of this city observed Jackson day by giving a dinner last night at the Hotel Bellevue. Letters from ex-President Cleveland and ex-Senator David B. Hill were read, which provoked considerable applause from the diners. Mr. Cleveland wrote:

"I am glad to know that there are at least 30 young democrats in Philadelphia, who are unwilling to allow Jackson day to pass without recognition."

"The inclination to neglect observance of a day that has been so long and so strongly related to genuine democratic sentiments, may reasonably be counted among the afflictive visitations that have lately weakened and depressed our party organization. I hope the spirit of true Jacksonian democracy may pervade your celebration; and that its participants may derive satisfaction and stimulation from their efforts to revive and strengthen the principles and practices of our old time, honest, consistent and aggressive democratic faith."

Senator Hill, in his letter, said: "Your letter has just reached me. I give you this sentiment: A strict construction of the federal constitution. No entangling alliances with foreign nations. Insistence upon the reserved rights of the states. Public taxation for public purposes only. Opposition to monopolies and dangerous combinations of capital. The preservation of the personal liberty of the citizen. No centralization. Home rule for states and municipalities. These are democratic principles which survive all defeats and must ultimately triumph."

Indianapolis, Jan. 9.—The annual Jackson day banquet was held here last night. Five hundred plates were laid. Among those present were National Committeeman Taggart, many state leaders and Mayor Rose, of Milwaukee, who made the principal speech of the evening.

The general expression was that the silver issue is dead, and the party must wage its fight against a colonial policy and in favor of a low tariff and no trusts.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Six hundred democrats attended the Jackson day banquet which was held here last evening. The main address was delivered by Judge Dunne, of Chicago, who declared conditions were ripening that would need another Andrew Jackson for their solution. Of these conditions he said the tendency to establish another banking monopoly was the most alarming; Judge Dunne predicted glorious things from the democratic party in the next presidential campaign and urged all factions of the party to unite on the main issues.

HIS BEST WITNESS.

A Man Accused of Murder Expects to Prove an Alibi by Means of a Phonograph.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—A phonographic record of a story, which he says he told, is what Louis Thoms, under arrest on a charge of having murdered Minnie Larson during the night of December 30, was advanced yesterday as proof that he was not on the steamer Peerless the night the girl is said to have been slain and her weighted body sunk in the river.

He declared that he spent most of the night with friends and that Albert Ristau, one of the party, had a phonograph into which they all talked. Ristau confirmed Thoms' story, but it was stated that the record of Thoms' story had been broken, as well as two others. It is said to be possible that the wax cylinder, which Thoms said was his best witness to prove an alibi, may be patched up sufficiently to show the truth or falsity of Thoms' story.

Gorman's Election Seems Certain. Annapolis, Md., Jan. 9.—Arthur Pue Gorman and Chairman Murray Vandiver, of the democratic state central committee, were selected as the democratic nominees for United States senator and state treasurer respectively at the democratic caucus held last night. There were 64 members present, and as 61 are sufficient to elect on joint ballot, the question of the next United States senator and state treasurer is regarded as settled. The republicans nominated Congressman William H. Jackson, of Wicomico county, for United States senator.

MET IN A TUNNEL.

A Frightful Accident at New York City.

A New York Central Train Crashes Into a Passenger Train, Causing the Death of 15 Persons and Injury to 30 Others—Signals Disregarded by Engineer.

New York, Jan. 9.—In the New York Central railroad tunnel that burrows under Park avenue, this city, two local trains collided yesterday. Fifteen passengers were killed and twice that number were injured. A dozen of the latter were seriously hurt and the roster of the dead may be extended.

It was a rear-end collision between a South Norwalk local that ran in over the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad and was halted by block signals at the southern entrance of the tunnel, and a White Plains local that came by the Harlem branch of the New York Central. The trains were crowded by suburbanites.

Most of the death, injury and damage was wrought by the engine of the White Plains train, which plunged into the rear end of the motionless train and was driven through to the middle of the car, smashing the seats and furnishings and splitting the sides as it moved forward. The victims either were mangled in the mass of wreckage carried on the pilot, crushed in the space between boiler and car sides, or scalded by steam which came hissing from broken pipes and cylinders. The engine, in its final plunge of 40 feet, carried the rear car forward and sent twisted iron, broken timbers and splinters crashing into the coach ahead. Lights were extinguished and from the wreckage and darkness came the cries of the injured and calls for assistance by those who escaped.

Responsibility for the disaster is unfixed, but Superintendent Franklin said that so far as he had been able to discover, John Wischo, engineer of the White Plains train, is to blame. It is declared that when the South Norwalk train stopped a flagman ran back into the tunnel, and, besides placing a torpedo on the track, endeavored to flag the oncoming train. The tunnel was belouged with steam and smoke, while the snow, which fell through the air shafts, tended to obscure the view. Engineer Wischo and Fireman Christopher Flynn were arrested.

Superintendent Franklin has issued a statement as to the accident, in which he declares that the block signals at Fifty-ninth street were obeyed by the New Haven train, while the engineer of the White Plains train disregarded them.

"The torpedo on the track went off," said the superintendent, "but he did not stop, even though the fireman called to him to do so. The system of block signals is such that it is a physical impossibility for a signalman to make his light declare the track free if another train is on the block."

District Attorney Jerome visited the wreck and examined many witnesses. The state railway commission also announced its intention to make an investigation and similar intent was expressed by the officers of both the New York Central road and the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad. Residents of New Rochelle contributed the largest number to the casualty list because the rear car of the South Norwalk train was reserved for them.

NAVAL HERO DIES.

Commodore Potter, Who Made a Brilliant Record, Has Crossed the Great Divide.

Belvidere, Ill., Jan. 9.—Commodore Edward Potter, retired, died from paralysis at his home in this city last evening. He was born at Medina, N. Y., in 1833. He was appointed from Rockford, Ill., to the Annapolis academy in 1850 and served in the navy until his retirement as commodore in 1895.

At the outbreak of the civil war Commodore Potter was with Admiral Schley on the steam frigate Niagara. When Capt. McLean learned that war had begun he gave the crew a chance to choose between the north and south. Potter and Schley were the first to step to the Union side. Commodore Potter was sent to Ireland with the Constellation with provisions to relieve the famine in 1880. He had command of the Norfolk navy yard during the world's fair, when foreign warships made it a rendezvous. His last command was the naval home in Philadelphia.

His record during the civil war was a notable one. He had command of the ironclad Chippewa at the siege of Fort Fisher and while serving in the gulf squadron participated in the bombardment and the passage of Forts Jackson and Philip and the capture of New Orleans.

Adjourned Until January 24.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Owing to the absence of necessary witnesses the inquiry of the inter-state commerce commission into the workings of the "community of interests" plan of the railroads was yesterday postponed until January 24, and the commission adjourned to meet in Chicago at that date.

A Pastry Cook's Crime.

St. Etienne, France, Jan. 9.—A pastry cook named Tautale had a quarrel with his wife and killed her with a revolver. He thrust her body into an oven, under which he lighted a fire. He then committed suicide. The calcined remains of the woman were found in the oven.

Miners Strike.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 9.—Seven hundred miners employed at the Buttonwood colliery of the Parish Coal Co. struck yesterday for the discharge of some non-union men whom the officials refused to dismiss.