

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT?

Today the enormous combinations of capital, usually called trusts, control every branch of business in this country. Nothing seems to escape their hungry and rapacious disposition. They really control what we eat, what we wear, and what we read, and a new corset trust will even try to squeeze the ladies. They transport us, entertain us and light and heat our houses for us. They are present at the birth of our children, they rock the cradle, furnish medicines, coffins and they bury us. They rule the financial world and they are just now the biggest thing in politics. They own the Republican party—body, soul and breeches—and they are now doing their utmost to get control of the Democratic party. Estimates show that the capitalization of the trust organizations for the present year will exceed twice the volume of currency, and five times the bonded indebtedness of the country.

Is not a system of such gigantic proportions, and almost unlimited power, a menace not only to our legitimate business interests, but to our liberty? They buy city governments, state legislatures, executive offices, and congress and the presidents are not free from their pernicious influences. They do not stop at this, but they control nominations and elections by the use of their enormous corruption funds. What can or should be done with a system so powerful and far reaching as these pernicious combinations? Either the trusts must be halted in their crusade of rapine and plunder, or the government handed over to the parties who have enriched themselves by this system of legalized, robbery and oppression.

The trusts are in politics and there is where this question must be met. The leaders of the trust organizations, with Mark Hanna and Senator Platt at the head, have for years shaped the policy of the Republican party, and today dominate its every policy; and the people now look to the democracy to free them from the baleful influence of this imminent and dangerous foe to their rights and liberties. This responsibility to the people is upon us, and we must meet it, and take up the fight for freedom from this ravenous tyrant that is devouring the substance of the masses.

"WEAK AND UNCERTAIN."

A Humiliating Criticism of President McKinley by Li Hung Chang.

The following interview with Li Hung Chang, the foremost statesman of China, was given out recently:

Shanghai, September 17. I interviewed Li Hung Chang to-day and he freely discussed the Philippines question.

"What do I think of your American occupation of the Philippines?" he said. "I consider it a great mistake. When General Grant was here he assured me that America was committed to the policy of non-aggression on weaker nations, but since this man McKinley became President America seems to have cast aside its traditional policy of honor, riches and safety and to have entered upon the same land grabbing plan of England, Germany and Russia. If Grant had lived no such mistake would have been made, for the people trusted him, obeyed him and believed in him. McKinley must be a sort of weak and uncertain man." JOHN T. MCCURCHISON.

Li Hung Chang made a centre shot. Even at a distance he can size up McKinley—a piece of dough, moulded and shaped by the politicians who put him in office. He has no policy, follows political sentiment and men like Mark Hanna. In plain words he is a willing tool in the "hands of his friends," who paid all his bad debts. Li Hung Chang is not so slow. "Hurrah for McKinley."

CAPT. COGHLAN has been ordered to New York to help welcome Admiral Dewey, but this time is not likely to drop into poetry.

RAKED THE REPUBLICANS.

Hon. W. T. Creamy, in his speech at the Grange picnic at Centre Hall, Wednesday, showed up republican misdoings in the following:

As a standard bearer of the democratic party it gives me pleasure this day to announce that we have pledged ourselves to the reforms begged by the agriculturist, the merchant and the laboring masses. The platform adopted by the democratic convention at Harrisburg last June is very explicit on this subject when it says: We favor revision of the tax laws of the state in the interest of the people, to the end that corporate property may pay its due share, that municipal franchises may be assessed as any other form of property, and that no interest shall be favored, but that all shall stand on an equality.

On this most important question, affecting our condition, what has the republican platform to say? It says: "If additional revenues are required we favor the taxation of incorporated capital and organized trusts." How farcical is all this? If additional revenue is required they say they will put the screws on the corporations and trusts, when in the same platform they are excusing themselves for cutting down the appropriations to our schools and charitable institutions because of the lack of revenue. The party in power in this state has always been shielding the trusts.

It is evident that the tax conference bill which was championed by the farmers, was doomed to defeat long before the session opened, as this report bears date November 30, 1898. But, nevertheless, it passed the house by a vote of 131 to 9. In the Quay machine committee of the senate this bill was killed. The reports on this bill which was authorized by the previous legislatures of 1895 and 1897 should have been given to the members at the beginning of the session of 1899, but were withheld, and in my opinion, it was done to defeat equalization of taxation.

And to make the defeat of tax reform more certain and to still further shield some of the corporations and all of the trusts type-written statements were given to the ways and means committee of the house, which were false, inasmuch as these statements made the total estimate of the expenditures for the year ending November 30, 1899, \$16,164,168.37, when the actual figures should be over \$700,000 more. No doubt this falsifying has been going on for years, and the people of the state have been misled by figures submitted in reports to them in the same manner as was the ways and means committee, who accepted them in good faith.

I have given a great deal of thought to the tax question and I say to-day without fear of contradiction that if every dollar of personal and corporate property would pay the rate now fixed by law we would have millions in the treasury for our charitable institutions, our schools and our roads. Trusts and corporations should be taxed for both genuine and watered stock, the value should be put on the plant and any fictitious value should be taxed double instead of not being taxed at all. In examining the auditor general's report for 1897 and 1898 you will find that the license law of 1897, discriminating as it is, yields a revenue from sellers and bottlers of liquor of \$691,799.15.

The same auditor general's report for 1898 shows an increase in personal property tax of \$246,004.81 over 1897. This same report shows an increase of tax on municipal loans of \$217,968.84 over the report of 1897. Dropping the odd figures we find that the revenue of 1898 should have exceeded those of 1897 by over \$1,100,000. Yet the reports of 1898 show only an increase of \$207,137.80. This difference of over \$900,000 can only be accounted for in that the corporations have not paid up as they should have done. Why is this? The interest on this alone in the report of 1899 should show \$108,000. Will it?

The Quay machine and its treasury looters have the floor. Now what has been done of late years by this band of wily politicians? It passed a tax law in 1897, and in that act it taxes the little brewer 25 cents per barrel on his product and the big brewer 2 cents per barrel; the little distiller \$2 per barrel and the big distiller from 10 to 15 cents per barrel, when the constitution plainly says, Act 1, ix, section 1, that all taxes shall be uniform on the same class of subjects.

This machine at the last session passed a mercantile license law which will get the most of its increase from the poor people, such as candy and peanut vendors. Not only do we need tax reform, but we need a reduction of expenditures. We want to do away with padded pay rolls, unnecessary committee expenses and officials, the appropriation for corrupt schemes, excessive pay in awarding some of the most important contracts, and to stop the perverting of interest money for debauching elections.

The reduction of the school appropriation means an increase of taxes on our farms and other real estate, which we have been trying to reduce and equalize. The constitution is plain on this where it says, Act 4, section 16: The governor shall have power to disapprove of any item or items of any bill, making appropriations of money. The general appropriation bill of 1899 makes the school appropriation but one item when it says in section 8: For the support of the public schools of this commonwealth for the two

years commencing on the first day of June, 1899 the sum of \$11,000,000 to be paid on warrants of the superintendent of public instruction in favor of the several districts of the commonwealth. This is clearly one item.

All other governors recognized this article of the constitution as binding on them and none violated it; and it was left for the machine's own governor to strike a blow at the Little Red School House.

Mr. Creamy was given three rousing cheers at the completion of his speech.

OHIO AND MARYLAND.

Both these states elect governors and other state officers this fall, and more than usual interest is manifested in the result. McKinley must carry Ohio and elect the republican ticket with a large majority, if he is to make a hopeful fight for re-election in 1900, and a defeat in Ohio in November would mean almost certain defeat for re-nomination. The election of the democratic ticket in Maryland, means that all the democratic states that had voted for McKinley in 1896 are back again in the democratic columns. In Maryland the democrats have nominated an unusually strong ticket and the party is practically united while the republicans are thoroughly disorganized by factional fights. United States Senator Wellington, who was the chairman of the Republican State Committee, resigned the chairmanship and says the ticket is doomed to defeat, and nothing could save it. He little doubts of the success of the democratic ticket and a democratic legislature.

In Ohio John R. McLean, the democratic candidate for governor, is a tower of strength, and with a united party back of him the democrats are making a hopeful fight. The republican nominations were dictated by Mark Hanna and Boss Cox, of Cincinnati, in such a manner as to alienate a large element of the party. Governor Bushnell and other republicans of like character and influence are openly opposing the election of the republican ticket, and Senator Foraker is sulking in his tent and refuses to say even a word in behalf of the grand old party. Bushnell's bolt and Foraker's sulking means a large republican vote against Judge Nash, the republican candidate, and his defeat is confidently predicted by many leading men of his own party. Chairman Dick, of the Republican Committee, admits that there is great danger of Ohio being lost to the republicans.

WORK OF TRUSTS.

Farmers who use wire fencing and builders generally all over the country have an additional reason to be opposed to trusts. The evil effects of the nail and wire trust have again been demonstrated by another advance of fifteen per cent. in price of all kinds of nails and wire. The American Steel and wire company, of Pittsburg, gave notice that beginning with Monday last a new price list went into effect. The quotations on nails are as follows:

To jobbers in carload lots, \$2.80; to jobbers in less than car lots, \$2.82 1/2; to retailers in carload lots, \$2.95; to retailers in less than carload lots, \$3.05.

The new prices on wire are as follows: To jobbers in carload lots, painted, \$3.25; galvanized, \$3.40; to jobbers in less than carload lots, painted, \$3.27 1/2; galvanized, \$3.42 1/2; to retailers in carload lots, painted, \$3.40; galvanized, \$3.55; to retailers in less than carload lots, painted, \$3.50; galvanized, \$3.65.

On September 1st a fifteen per cent. increase in prices was made. The price of nails in January was \$1.05 a keg. The latest advance increases the price since the first of the year \$1.75 a keg, or more than 150 per cent. The cause assigned for the latest rise is that it was necessary in order to follow the increase in prices of raw material.

THE NEW "TREASON."

The republican party, however, says the Elmira Gazette, cannot live comfortably without some kind of "treason" to denounce. Having conceded the reunion of the north and south it must forthwith get up some new kind of "traitorism." It cannot possibly allow that, while men may differ regarding policies, all may be equally devoted to their country's welfare.

While Roosevelt, on the one hand, preaches the welding of north and south as "the one grand result of the Spanish war," he preaches, on the other hand, that the Spanish war has brought about a new division of the people into patriots and "traitors." The "one grand result" profits little if it merely replaces one breed of "traitors" by another.

The leaders of the new "treason," by the way, are Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, Senator Hale of Maine, Senator Mason of Illinois, Senator Wellington of Maryland, Speaker Thomas Brackett Reed, Andrew Carnegie, ex-Senator Edmunds, ex-Senator John Sherman, ex-Senator Henderson, ex-Secretary Boutwell and other republican statesmen of that type, than whom there are not now and never have been any sounder and saner within that party.

With Ohio trembling in the balance, and Maryland certain to elect the democratic ticket, what will the result be in 1900? The people are apparently tiring of Algerian, militarism and imperialism.

DEMAND FOR SILVER.

The treasury of the United States presents the unusual condition of a surfeit of gold and a famine of silver. The department has become very much concerned about the situation, and appreciates now that there is a demand for silver in commerce as well as for gold. At all the nine sub-treasuries, the banking houses have been begging for silver, so that their depositors could be supplied with it; and they have been refused. In fact, the treasurer sent a formal order to these sub-treasurers not to pay out silver in exchange for gold, but only to those who present silver certificates. This looks remarkable when we remember the efforts made some six years ago to raid the gold in the treasury. Today if a man presents to the treasury here a gold certificate for \$20., or any amount, he must take gold for it. In nearly every case there is a protest. The man wants money of smaller denominations than can be had in gold, for the purpose of making change in business; but he cannot get it. The rule is mandatory, and will be adhered to until the treasury is better supplied with the white metal. Last Monday there were but \$90,000 in silver, not covered by certificates outstanding, in the treasury here, and hardly four millions in all the sub-treasuries combined. The amount was increased slightly after the order indicated, but now stands at barely \$300,000.

The result of this has been general dissatisfaction in the large business houses. The cashiers are kept running to the banks getting what little small money they can, greatly to the inconvenience of business. No better argument could be furnished of the advantages of bimetalism. The treasury has more gold than ever before. Business houses have less of the necessary small money of the people than ever before. When congress in 1893, at the demands of the gold men, met in special session and repealed the law coining \$4,500,000 a month in silver, it laid the foundation for the present commercial inconvenience, and for the unusual sight of a raid for silver instead of gold. By this law, in six years of its operations, over \$300,000,000 in silver have been left out of the money supply of the country. Now that business has become generally active, there is need for more money of small denominations—the "money of the people" as it has been called—in order to effect ordinary sales. This cannot be done with gold, because it is not in small denominations, and it has been driven gradually out of circulation until the government has to issue an order to enforce the taking of it. That shows conclusively the natural demand for silver, in its proper place, in American commerce. Gold, in turn, has its proper functions, and with the advent of a democratic administration both metals will be made to work together harmoniously, and such embarrassment as now is being felt in every large city for small money will be avoided.

TARIFF LESSON.

The Phoenix Bridge Company received a request from the Russian Minister of Finance last February to submit bids for twelve iron bridges for the Chinese Eastern Railroad, a branch of the Trans-Siberian road. The proposition of the company was accepted and the work ordered early in March. Subsequently the order was increased to eighteen. The first shipment was made in June and the second early in July. About the same time forty locomotives were shipped for the same road by the Baldwin works of Philadelphia, a thousand tons of rails, and hundreds of tons of other machinery. The road, at present, extends to Lake Baikal, near the north line of Chinese territory; thence three routes are projected to the Pacific Ocean. One is semicircular and extends through Russian territory exclusively, ending at Vladivostok. This is the main Trans-Siberian railroad. The other two routes or branches cross Manchouria to Corea, thence, one branch runs east to Vladivostok, and the other south to Port Arthur. Besides these main stems, lines are constructed north and south from the main lines through the valleys of the rivers flowing north into the Arctic Ocean. This entire network of railroads is constructed by the Russian government, and owing to the political events of the last year in the far east, it has become necessary that the work should be pushed as rapidly as possible to final completion. For this reason America was called upon to furnish work and material that could not be procured in Europe in the same length of time and for the same price.

Besides these orders, this company has built bridges in Peru, the Argentine Republic, Central America, United States of Columbia, Venezuela and Japan, and the Baldwin's have furnished locomotives and other machinery in all these countries. The locomotives that are used on the London underground railroad are made in America. Think of that, American locomotives in the head of the capital city of England. Think of America furnishing the bridges, rails, locomotives, and cars for the monster railroad system of the Russian Empire.

What has become of the tariff, that was to protect our infant industries. The infant has become a giant and is abundantly able to take care of himself. And yet we constantly hear the silly twaddle of the tariff and trust-fed or-

gans, insisting that all this is the result of the present tariff system. How can it be when our people can make better articles, in less time, and for less money than any other country. This condition has been brought about in spite of the tariff, and not by the tariff.

TAXATION GROWING.

The following extracts from a speech in the United States senate by Senator J. L. McLaurin will be both interesting and surprising. It suggests that we should either insist on getting the worth of our heavy taxation or reduce it:

"Prior to 1860 the expenditures of the federal government per capita ranged from \$1.35 to \$2.20. They now range from \$5 to \$6. In addition to this, the state expenditures average \$9.10 per capita, a total of between \$14 and \$15 per capita. As compared with these expenditures the Statesman's Year Book gives per capita of expenses of Austria at \$1.51; Russia, \$2.75; the German empire, including state expenses, \$5.90; the British empire, including colonial expenses, \$3.97; Japan, \$1.60; Portugal, \$1.08; Mexico, \$3.85. Prior to 1860 the people of the United States were freer from the burdens of taxation than the people of almost any other civilized country. Today they pay heavier taxes than the people of any civilized nation."

WAGES AND LIVING.

It is a question whether the advance in wages these booming times keeps pace with the advance in the necessities of life. Everything is going up. The New York "Tribune" calls attention to the fact that with the exception of flour, which sells to-day at about \$1 less than a year ago, the cost of living generally has increased in the last twelve months. The increase in cost of the common every day articles, those which are consumed most can be estimated safely as follows:

- All metal goods.....100 per cent. Textile materials.....100 per cent. Staple Print Cloths.....30 to 40 per cent. Pine Boards for Packing.....15 per cent. House Furnishing Goods.....20 per cent. Carpets of all kinds.....50 per cent. Stoves and Kitchen Utensils, 50 per cent. Table Salts.....from 90 cts to \$1.50 per bl.

These are only some of the increases in supplies bought daily by the house-keeper. The manager of a big department store is authority for the statement that every branch of the establishment was selling goods at prices considerably above those of a year ago. The change, however, he said, had been so gradual and had been so masked by retailers that the average housewife does not realize that she is paying more for any given article of dress or food.

THERE is more than a little truth in that definition of a "layman" as one who lays things upon his pastor which he himself ought to do.

STILL MODEST.

Admiral Dewey's interview upon his arrival in New York showed anew that his fame and popularity have not turned his head nor impaired his modesty.

"I am not a politician," he said, "but a sailor. I don't want to mix up in the affairs of government. I am perfectly well satisfied to live and die a simple sailor as I have always been. I can't even make a speech. How could I go into politics? I guess I'll have to be content with my present lot."

EX-SENATOR HENDERSON, of Missouri, a leading and able Republican, has his own ideas of "hauling down the American flag" from a place of dishonor or where it has no business to wave. "I don't believe," he says in a much quoted interview, "that you can drive a people to fall in love with anything or that you can shoot American patriotism into anybody. When the American flag ceases to be the emblem of liberty let it be hauled down. I know of but one flag, and that is the one which proudly floats 'o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.' It will never float gracefully over a land of slaves." At least it should not guarantee polygamy and slavery, the "twin evils" of Republican platforms, in the protectorate McKinley has ordained for the Sultan of Sulu. In his Ocean Grove speech the President declared: "There will be no useless parley—no pause until the insurrection is suppressed." Senator Henderson holds a different view, and says, admitting the blunder of occupying the Philippines: "I would now negotiate with the Filipinos to take Manila as a naval station and then help them to establish a republic of their own, the United States agreeing to aid them in the good work and to protect them from any threatened interference with their free institutions, they to return to us the \$20,000,000 which Spain received from us on a defective title."—Post.

At present all parties are preparing to denounce the trusts. In this condemnation the republicans will seek to outdo the democrats. It matters not that ninety nine per cent. of these combinations have been made since McKinley's inauguration—the majority of them getting a basis under the Dingley high tax law—the republicans will not dare to defend them. Their platform will arraign them as menaces to commerce quite as severely as the democrats can do. Their leaders never lacked effrontery, nor hesitated to write a platform embodying popular promises only to be ignored by them in power.

OCTOBER 7 is the last day for paying taxes in order to permit men to vote in November unless they paid a poll tax last year.

EARLY OPENING

OF

Fall & Winter Clothing For Men, Boys and Children

SEASON OF 1899 & 1900.

- Hat Opening---Men's and Women's. Neckwear Opening---Men's, Women's and Children's. Glove Opening---Men's, Women's and Children's. Handkerchief Opening---Men's, Women's and Children's. Hosiery Opening---Men's, Women's and Children's. Underwear Opening---Men's, Boys' & Children's. Umbrella and Mackintosh Opening---Men's and Women's. Opening of fine Woolens for Clothing made to order by the best cutters and tailors.

Pumpkin Contest will close Saturday, October 14th. All contestants must bring their pumpkins to the store before 3 o'clock on that afternoon.

Montgomery & Co.