

The Dispatch

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PITTSBURGH, SUNDAY, SEPT. 20, 1914.

STATE OFFICIALS ON THE STAND. No comfort can be extracted by the friends of the State officials from the information brought out at the session of the Treasury Investigating Committee yesterday.

Auditor General McCamant was put upon the stand, and endeavoring to illustrate a lengthy and rather paltering correspondence with Barsley, the Philadelphia defaulter, extending over a year or more, the object of which seemed to be to mildly induce Barsley to pay up part of his arrears to the State.

Most clearly, putting a charitable aspect upon this correspondence, the Auditor General told Barsley when he should have thrown stones. There were developed in the correspondence a couple of passages wherein McCamant thanked Barsley for "favors." These naturally aroused Mr. Fow's inquisitiveness. The Auditor General says the "favors" were "meekness" on one occasion and "old magister" on another. It remains to be said that it would be better if the Auditor General had not occasion to mix his personal thanks to Barsley with his denunciations for the money due the State—not, for the present, to put any harsher construction on these particular expressions of obligation.

Setting every other question apart, it is clear that the Auditor General had been properly vigilant and vigorous in his official functions, Barsley would have been called to time much sooner, and the public funds would have been saved.

But it is also clear from yesterday's inquiry that Lively has not yet appeared before the committee, is the witness who can throw most light upon the points at issue. It is certain that Lively would have looked better if the late cashier of the treasury had been on hand yesterday. Mr. Fow was bold and direct in his charge of a conspiracy against the State—so much so indeed that Lively cannot longer remain away without giving strong color to the allegations. The investigation is evidently nearing a crisis.

THAT ENGINE TEST. The hearings during the week with regard to that past event, the test of the Armstrong fire engines has developed an interesting phase. It will be remembered that after the long-looked for test had taken place, that very earnest and very persistent fighter on the fire engine question, Mr. H. A. Safford, claimed that the test as it was made was a humbug. His position was that with the water fed directly to the engines from the fire plug, the engine was very largely aided in its work by the pressure from the mains, and that consequently the ability of the engine to pump unaided the required quantity of water in a given time was not demonstrated.

The experts who conducted the test, were on the witness-stand before the master in the case last week, and were forced by cross-examination into admissions which go far toward corroborating this assertion. It may be premature to regard this point as decisively settled; but at present the fact seems to rest in Mr. Safford's cap.

TELEGRAPHIC DEADHEADING. The fact is quoted from one of the oldest telegraphic operators at Washington, that one-quarter of the telegraphic business of that city is composed of the franked messages of members of Congress. The other three-quarters of course, consists mainly of the press dispatches paid for by the newspapers of the country. The amount of telegraphic correspondence originating at Washington apart from news, politics and Government business, would be about equal to that of one of these rural points where one man fills the joint position of operator and railway agent.

Telegrams declines this to be "not the seed but the matured crop of a huge abuse." This is a little hyperbolic, but, it is easy to see that the purpose of giving Congressmen a free swing over the wires is to induce a favorable opinion of the telegraphic corporation. The man who enjoys deadhead privileges nearly always takes a very optimistic view of the business which he has the free supplies of the wires. The crop is matured, and the harvest garnered when Congress neglects or refuses the legislation needed by the public interest, or makes haste to furnish that required by the telegraphic

corporation. Doubtless, the dead-headness is an influence to favorably impress the Congressional mind, but it is not always a decisive one. On some telegraphic messages in the past few years Congress has been even antagonistic to the Western Union. Whether the telegraphic franks were so free then as now, we do not know, but generally it takes more than a free privilege over the wires to own a Congressman in fee simple.

SHERMAN'S SILVER IDEAS. Senator Sherman's interview with a correspondent of THE DISPATCH comes to the public only a day or two after the remarkable declaration of the New York Democrats against silver. The New York idea is so widely different from the Ohio one that it not only declares against free silver coinage, but attacks the act passed by the last Congress as certain if continued to bring the country eventually to a silver basis.

Sherman does not reply directly to this attack on the ill-fated silver policy, but his utterances have a decided relation to it. For the weakness of the last legislation on that subject, is that no one can say authoritatively what it means. The question whether it means the ultimate reduction of the currency to the silver basis or the maintenance of the present standard depends on the construction which will be put on the act in its future operation.

Although Sherman does not definitely recognize this fact, his utterances bring it out. For instance, he says: "The Government if it became the purchaser of all the silver bullion in the country could not maintain that coin at a par with gold or prevent a silver dollar from depreciating." Of course it cannot; and yet the one indisputable feature of the present silver law, is that the purchaser of the silver bullion is to be guaranteed to absorb the entire silver production of the country.

Naturally Senator Sherman devotes considerable attention to the false position which the Ohio Democrats have taken on free silver coinage. He has a perfect right to do this, as the Democratic convention by one of those pieces of inspired stupidity to which the Democratic party are prone has made the issue between the immediate reduction of the currency to the silver basis, and the settlement of the question on sound lines. But the most significant part of the interview is his indication of the ultimate settlement on the line which THE DISPATCH has always held to be the only correct one, namely, the use of the word "gold and silver coinage." This is the fundamental meaning of his proposition for the issue of currency "upon the deposit of gold or silver at its market value instead of a fictitious value as proposed by the free coinage act."

If the machinery of a city can not promptly and thoroughly collect from corporations the taxes due it the people will be apt to inquire how the officials earn their salaries. At present the attitude of affairs between the Allegheny City government and the street railway corporations is equally discreditable to both sides.

CARTOONISTS' BLUNDERS. The fact is pointed out by a critic of the pictorial journalism of the day, that one of the last cartoons of Puck on the politics of the act of mounting the silver coinage hobby horse "on the right side, which is the wrong side." The fact that the artist who drew the cartoon, which was mounted, does not in the opinion of this critic warrant the representation of an equal ignorance on the part of McKinley.

Such features of the current pictorial cartoon are not uncommon. It is not many years since a cartoon went the rounds of the press in which a certain individual was depicted milking a cow. Every journal which printed the cartoon represented the milking as going on from the side which would induce every self-respecting cow to kick both the milk and milk-pail into the next pasture; whereas the point of the cartoon was that the milking was successful. Puck has an excuse for his slip which will put it in better shape than the cartoonist's. It is that the artist who drew the cartoon was not in possession of the facts.

THE POWERS AND THE BALKANS. The events of the past week with regard to the future of European Turkey and the Balkan provinces has revived the old suggestion of a Balkan confederation. The foundation of this suggestion is that while the Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece are now insignificant and powerless, they might, if their strength were united and increased by the addition of Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, and Macedonia, attain a respectable strength, sufficient to stand against Moslem and imperial aggression. As the union of all these countries under a centralized government is not possible, it is proposed that the states mentioned should form a confederation.

The theory of the suggestion is unquestionable, but its abandonment for the sake of a strong and united government for a weak confederation held together by ropes of sand shows its practical weakness. That lies in the fact that the jealous greed of the Great Powers would tolerate such a confederation only in proportion to its weakness, while it would maintain itself only in proportion as it was strong. The jealousy with which each of the Great Powers wars away the others from the Balkans is not due to any distasteful desire for the independence of these provinces, but because each Power wants them for itself and is determined that its rival shall not get them.

The consolidation of a strong Balkan State would balk all of these desires and would therefore be regarded with equal disfavor by both Austria and Russia. Doubtless Alexander of Battenberg and Bulgaria was inspired by the dream of a powerful Balkan kingdom, with himself at its head, after he defeated Serbia and when he annexed Eastern Roumelia. But the views of the empires, on such a project were clearly manifested by the way in which Austria checked him in Serbia, and Russian conspiracy carried him off after the Roumelian enterprise. The European Powers will not surrender their

hopes of aggrandisement from the Turkish empire, but they will have the objection left that there is no need of keeping the temperature fully fifty degrees away from the frost line.

THE NEW YORK campaign already presents one very good illustration of the respect paid to public opinion when votes are sought. The day after Fasset was nominated as his opponent, he was elected to New York, and with equal promptness after his nomination, Mr. Flower resigned his position as member of Congress. As both candidates are likely to have held their places until it was decided which of them is to be elected, their early action indicates that the Hill method of hanging on to two offices as long as possible does not commend itself to men who are after votes.

Now we hear from Buenos Ayres that Balmaceda has arrived at the Argentine frontier after crossing the Andes. The ability of Balmaceda to give such a long drive to the benefit of an act intended to apply to honest debtors was stretching its interpretation most strangely.

Also, there was no "financial stringency" in Philadelphia excepting what was caused by rotten banking. To permit a defaulting fiscal agent of the State to hold on to State Treasury was bad enough, but to continue to subsidize the public funds was useful to sustain the banking system of Philadelphia is adding insult to injury. The Auditor General so far is not fortunate in his explanations.

It is earnestly to be hoped that Mr. William Waldorf Astor will find in London a more liberal opinion as to the "Mrs. Astor" will cease from troubling and the weary can take a rest.

MR. IGONATHUS DONNELLY, President of the Minnesota Farmers' Alliance, says he has nothing to do with that prorepublican circular advising the farmers to hold their wheat for "81.90 per bushel." He should have some other means of getting his wheat to his well-known talents to study, he might discover between his lines a cipher showing its true worth to be the speculator's price. Within the circle of other nations which they wish to unload at good prices before the new crop comes in to ease the market. Donnelly should find ciphers where they will do him most good.

MR. CHAUNCEY M. DEWEY went slumming in Whitecap and declares himself shocked at the poverty there. It is there at times, however, that the poorest of the poor are to be found. It is there that the millionaire element of New York, has taken measures to assure himself that there is no similar poverty in New York.

It is reassuring to observe once more that both candidates are satisfied with the Ohio campaign. It is not surprising that they should be so, for no person would have been so foolish as to continue unbroken until the election returns come in.

An indirect method of blowing Flower is adopted by the New York Times as follows: "Preferred stock of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railway Company gained a two and one-half points directly after the meeting of the directors, Chairman Joseph P. Flower for Governor. This is an endorsement that the Democratic candidate will appreciate." The intimation that the corporation is to be sold to the State is not a new one, but when the cases are in court the corporations can present their defense and have its validity authoritatively passed upon.

There is reason to suspect that a large number of Democratic leaders in New York have joined Warner Miller in falling outside the lines of the campaign. The names of Lincoln and Smith M. Wood are definitely located outside of the Hill rifle pits, and the full roll of the missing is not yet made up.

The very earnest attention given to the Dardanelles and the Danube shows that both England and Russia are determined to take water if they have to fight for it.

THE NEW YORK World, which a comparatively short time ago recognized R. P. Flower as a representative of the corporate interest, is now in the act of denouncing him in columns to whacking away at the dissentient New York Democrats. Such delicate assertions as that "there never was a Republican candidate for Governor better than Jones" indicates the earnestness with which the World has abjured its old standing as an Independent Democratic paper, and become a more ardent.

PEOPLE OFTEN MENTIONED. QUEEN VICTORIA puts in her spare time playing the croquet needle.

CARDINAL MANNING is strongly opposed to lotteries and raffles for church or charitable purposes.

ANTON RUBINSTEIN is said to be engaged on two important works, an concerto on the subject of "Mozart," and the latter acts on a Russian theme.

WILLIAM H. SHOCK, Engineer in Chief, United States Navy, retired, who has been for some time traveling abroad, is now at Morley's Hotel, Trading Square, London.

KAISER WILHELM is the only one of the three Emperors who reads the newspapers for himself. The Czar and the Emperor of Austria have a private journal of cuttings sent up to them by the press.

AN Italian duchess, the Duchess Bolognini, who has recently lost her husband and son has sold her jewels for \$100,000 and given the proceeds to the children's department of the Milan Hospital in memory of her son.

COLONEL H. S. OLCOTT, President of the Theological Society, sailed from New York Wednesday for Liverpool. He is on his way to Japan to deliver a series of lectures on the North and Southern branches of the Buddhist Church.

MRS. GRANT, widow of General Grant is aging rapidly. There has been a marked change in her appearance, and she is now nearly eighty-two. Her hair is silvered, and her slow and uneven step betokens her advanced years.

SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR, Governor of British New Guinea, received a letter from Mr. Yule, of Kiovia, as he prefers to call it. Kiovia range is volcanic and isolated from the main chain, of which Mr. Owen Stanley is the commander. It is wooded to the very summit.

WHEN in Berlin, the Emperor William has in his study a private telephone which communicates with the Empress apart from the fact that the Emperor is in the course. It is said that if the Emperor be in one of his fits of high spirits he often summons his children to the instrument and jokes with them for a family interlude.

PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, who headed the expedition to Labrador which discovered the Grand Falls, takes a party of Bowdoin students every summer on some notable excursion. The party is made up of the students and gives the college reputation. His Labrador trip was rather expensive, but the college alumni footed most of the bills. Prof. Lee is a neatly, wide-awake man of science, about 40 years old. He was chief of the scientific staff of the Fish Commission steamer Albatross when he made the first cruise in Pacific waters two years ago.

THE AFTER TIME. There cometh a time for laughter, And joy for the days and years; But ever cometh a time for tears. A time and a place for tears. Weary of revel and riot, And sick of the world's strife, Cometh the peace—the quiet— That quickens the fountains of life.

And the spirit is disquieted, And the soul which for rest had panted, Falls down at the Master's feet; The world is with him and dry, And love at the best seems loss— What help is there then but only To cling to the crimson cross? To cling to the cross that blossoms With blood for the erring sinner; On the tender of tender bosoms To pillow the weary head; To feel the love that is glowing From the heart that is quick to beat, And the heart that is quick to beat, In the beautiful scarred white feet.

O birds, by the storm winds driven, Where never a stern bird straggles, Fly homeward with weary wings; And ye that are worn and weary, Fly fast from the darkness drear, To the Rock that is clear for all.

CHARLES H. GILMAN, a prominent business man of Youngstown, O., senior member of the furniture firm of Gilman & Wilson, died last night of Bright's disease at the residence of his wife, Mrs. M. L. Lawrence Scott, one of the best-known citizens of Northern Pennsylvania, died at his home at Youngstown, Pa., yesterday morning, aged 70 years. He was an active and influential Republican and held a number of important public offices. He was a member of the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Youngstown Athletic Club. He was a member of the Youngstown Athletic Club, and was a member of the Youngstown Athletic Club.

IS great Republican weather for the corn crop? His opinion may have the objection left that there is no need of keeping the temperature fully fifty degrees away from the frost line.

They Should Be Ceded to the States and Territories to Give Out. The Irrigation Congress is now in session at Salt Lake City. One of the questions for discussion submitted by the committee of the Federal Government should retain the public domain and itself enter upon the work of reclaiming the arid lands and then transfer to actual settlers. Resolutions providing for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$100,000,000, to be expended in irrigation, said bonds to be refundable in treasury notes issued against them, have been introduced. All such schemes of tapping the pockets of the farmers and other citizens of States which have no arid lands within their jurisdiction should be rejected by the Irrigation Congress, because they are impracticable. The farmers east of the ninety-ninth meridian will not consent to be taxed for the reclamation of the arid lands and then transfer to actual settlers. 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