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## TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

### REGULATION OF IMMIGRATION.

An impressive illustration of the evil effects of unregulated immigration, and one that comes near home, is given in a special article which appears in to-day's DISPATCH. The assertion that a large preponderance of the crimes in Allegheny county are shown to be among the foreign-born population will strike everyone as an exceedingly cogent fact. The correlated facts with regard to the additions made to our pauperism from the same source amount to a powerful demonstration of the necessity of effective regulation.

Of course such facts as these convey no imputation on the foreign-born citizens of energy, industry and intelligence. The United States have by experiment on the grandest scale demonstrated the immense gain that can be made to a new nation's progress by extending a welcoming hand to immigrants of that class. But when the liberality of that policy leads to abuses it is time to impose a check on them. The work of organizations in different parts of Europe, whose function it is to secure the deportation from these countries of criminals and paupers, is the most emphatic exponent of the need of action on the part of our Government. Its effect is emphasized when we find Germany trying to frame measures to keep her undesirable citizens at home. The net expression of the European desire that the United States shall only receive immigrants of the class that swells our totals of vice, pauperism and crime, is exceedingly conclusive as to our course.

Such facts as these leave no room for discussion that the time has come for the United States to establish strict and effective regulations of immigration, with regard to the character of the immigrant. As to the details of such regulation there may be wide room for debate; but THE DISPATCH is firmly of opinion that inspection and examination in the foreign lands, whence the immigrants start, is the ultimate and complete solution.

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The prospect of any material benefit to the public from this suit is by no means encouraging. But the case of the Bell Telephone Company should afford sufficient reason for Congress at this session to pass a bill putting an end to the fraud of prolonging a monopoly indefinitely by means of fictitious interference proceedings in the Patent Office. The favorite method of extending the telephone monopoly has been by interference disputes between patents both of which are owned by the same company. It is a scandal that such fraudulent suits have already been permitted to drag over the course of years, but with the prominence which has been given to this method of using the patent laws to prejudice public interest, it will be a greater scandal if Congress permits it to go unremedied.

THE LAUREATE ISSUE.

An interesting symposium of opinions from a large number of writers on the question of a poet laureate for the United States finds a place in THE DISPATCH today. It will be seen on perusal that the variety of views which might be expected, takes place from utter disapproval to enthusiastic endorsement with the usual scope of nominations from Oliver Wendell Holmes to the Sweet Singer of Michigan.

The supporters of the poet laureate idea fail to appreciate the fact, which one of the opponents brings out that no laureate could occupy the position permanently. The place must from its nature be one of the spoils of a national campaign. Civil service reform in its most extreme scope could not claim it. It would be a political office more indisputably than the Cabinet offices. It is clear that the poet who indited a panegyric to Mr. Harrison could not be allowed the poetic license of turning around and constructing an ode to Mr. Cleveland on his inauguration. Nor could the man which had prompted an economic lyric on the benefits of the McKinley bill easily reverse its machine to produce blank verse on the advantages of a revision of the tariff on the Calhoun plan.

The conclusion is plain therefore that each change of party must bring a new laureate; and, of course, the new laureate must go to the verse-maker who deserves the

most successful campaign poetry. We need not go into the harrowing details of a poetic competition with the laureateship for a prize, such as the New York World inflicted on itself and its readers during the last campaign. That would not afford the principle of selection. The originators of those campaign rhymes which impress themselves on the public mind, so that they are heard all over the land while the craze lasts, are the ones who would get the plum. Thus the poetic genius which produced that chaste and classic verse could claim priority:

Grover, Grover,  
Four years more of Grover,  
In '92 we'll be in clover.

The terse, forcible and comprehensive expression of the whole situation in these lines marks the author as the man whom political selection would make the poet laureate. Moreover, in the absence of definite information, the opinion is well-founded that he would be a better, because less wordy, laureate than many of England's official verse-makers.

THE REPUBLICAN ATTITUDE.

There is a Republican element which is conspicuous by reason of noisiness, in asserting that the Republicans should not aid any attempt of the conservative element in the Democracy to settle the tariff question on the plan of a gradual and careful revision. This stand is avowedly put on the basis that if the radical Democrats are given full sway they will inflict such a sweeping and destructive change in the tariff that the next Presidential election will restore the Republicans to power. In other words the attitude of that element places party success as greater in importance than public welfare.

The Democratic victory has made a certain degree of tariff revision a foregone conclusion. It is by no means certain that the action of sensible Republicans can affect the nature of the revision. But it is already clear that Democratic opinion is likely to develop a difference as to the policy which shall prevail. If in the trial of strength in Congress over the question whether the matter shall be settled by a conservative alteration of duties or a sweeping and radical reduction, the Republicans should be able to give effective support to the moderate wing. Only one course is open to them consistently with any regard for the public welfare.

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Wisdom, enterprise and the various forms of intelligence are as useful in city government as in the direction of private concerns. The city in whose government these factors predominate will have its interests advanced. Where they are missing, their absence will be felt. These truths are so plain that it seems useless to repeat them—yet the fact is that city offices are too usually regarded as the means of satisfying personal ambition or as prizes among politicians.

If the canvass now approaching is to turn upon the latter consideration it will elicit small interest. If, on the other hand, it shall be made to comprise consideration of the policies and projects which will not only give Pittsburg the best government, but also most promote its industrial interests, everybody will feel concerned. Any candidate for Mayor who has the wit to devise plans or outline ideas of palpable benefit to the community, and who has the character and force to present them as a platform, will win thousands of votes from the people who would go in doubt to the polls, if they even did so much, in a mere contest as between individuals for the name and the emoluments of the office.

It is worth while for partisans that for little in municipal elections—certainly for next to nothing in Pittsburg—the DISPATCH would suggest to the various gentlemen who have the Mayoralty bee in their bonnets to let the public know their platforms. Other things equal, the man with the most attractive platform will have much the best chance of being elected.

BESOTTED CLEMENCY.

It was supposed that when a West Virginia Judge was beguiled into affixing his signature to a petition that he himself should be taken into the public square and burned at the stake, that the utmost possibility was attained, of the proneness of people to sign petitions just because they are asked. Yet the assertion that a petition for the pardon of the men under sentence for ballot frauds in Jersey City, has been signed by hundreds of the best citizens, including ten clergymen, very nearly equals if it does not surpass it in the exhibition of the same quality.

For here are hundreds of men alleged to be interested in good Government and morality, who have been wheedled into signing petitions that no man can sign consistently, with a desire for popular Government or political honesty. The men under sentence were persistent and defiant perpetrators of frauds on the ballot which made honest Government impossible. They only presented themselves for sentence because they did believe that the Judge dared not send them to prison. To pardon them at the very beginning of their sentences would be to proclaim that frauds on the ballot can be committed with impunity. The recent pardons of Simmons, the bank breaker, and his associate, was an equally flagrant example of the need of action on the part of our Government. Its effect is emphasized when we find Germany trying to frame measures to keep her undesirable citizens at home.

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