SCRANTON TRIBUNE

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Legislation, it is said, cannot create wealth, but the Democratic party, in its tariff and financial policies, is showing how legislation can destroy it.

BOSS CROKER may be able to placate Bourke Cockran, although that is doubtful. But he will never be able to placate the insatiable appetite of his subordinate ringsters when once it becomes apparent to them that the boss' "pull" is waning.

HERE ARE two reforms that deserve to be pondered: a one-term president, with the occupant ineligible to re-election; and a constitutional amendment prohibiting tariff tinkering oftener than once in ten years.

FIRE-EATER MEREDITH is recommended not to try any of his southern bulldozing on Galusha A. Grow; for although thirty-two years have passed since the latter floored Keitt, his strong right arm has lost none of its patriot's muscle, nor has his eye lost the knack of spotting a braggart on sight.

IN HONOR of its twenty-fourth birthday, the Allentown Chronicle prints a double number embodying much interesting reading matter and a healthy assortment of advertisements. The Chronicle is one of the best, cleanest and by virtue thereof, most prosperous local journals printed in Pennsylvania.

THE INHERENT unfairness of Mr. Bland's bill to coin the seigniorage is that it seeks to establish upon a depreciated silver basis circulation which under madcap Democratic superintendence, has had all it could do to hold up its head even when backed by gold. The present administration isn't to be trusted to make difficult and dangerous financial experiments.

UNLESS REPUBLICANS throw away their chances by apathy, over confidence or dissensions, the next delegation of Pennsylvania congressmen ought to contain not more than four Democrats, and possibly as few as two. And for real business purposes, the commonwealth could do nothing better than to pitch in and make it unanimously Republican.

IT SHOULD be borne in mind that while fire alarm publicists, like Labouchere, may often embarrass good government, they cannot permanently defeat it. England's new premier would do a distinct service to mankind if he should succeed in putting the Liberal party upon a foundation of common sense and thus cut loose from the torchlight colonels of the radical persuasion.

THE LATEST New York gossip points to Mr. Depew for governor, if he should be willing to accept a nomination, which is doubtful. Those qualities for which he is famous, however, are better out of the governorship than in it. They would be cramped by the necessary routine and laboriousness of the position. From an impartial outside view, it would seem as if ex-Vice President Morton's name were yet the likeliest one in connection with this nomination. It avoids all factional obstacles and assures a support at the polls far in excess of the normal party strength. Mr. Morton enjoys close application to business. Mr. Depew is happier as an oratorical free lance.

ALTHOUGH HERETOFORE confined to the large cities, the type setting machine has now made its way into the interior, and is not too much to expect a new literary revolution in consequence. The West Chester Republican was the first inland journal in this state to compose itself by machines; but others are preparing to follow its example, and an increased quantity of reading, in consequence of the decreased cost of type setting, may be expected to follow the advent of machines. It is to be hoped that type-setting machines will eventually be improved so as to obviate the sharp, angular, metallic character of the machine-set printed page, which is destructive of neat appearance and harmful to the eyesight. When this shall be done, machines will quickly be introduced into the great majority of newspaper offices, in little communities, as well as big ones.

SORROW AND LOSS.

Under the caption, "A Year of Power," the New York World prints a column review of Democratic ressendancy, as thus far unfolded, which contains more misstatement, misinformation and deliberate misrepresentation than we remember ever before to have seen in an equal space, notwithstanding the sharp competition waged in these particulars by the World's Democratic contemporaries. "Not in half a century before," declares this Gotham oracle, "has the first year of a new administration and a new congress been so rich in important public services as has the year ended Saturday." After this whopper, what may we not expect?

The evidences which the World cites in support of this assertion are comprised in four facts, namely, the passage of the silver repeal law, which the World forgets to explain was affected solely through Republican help in the senate; the repeal of the federal election law, which is a good thing for ballot stuffing brigadiers, but a tough one for those who favor a free ballot and an honest count; the passage of the Wilson bill, which the World thinks "the most scientific and just tariff measure that has passed either house of congress in thirty years," but from which opinion Pennsylvania begs leave to dissent by 188,294 majority; and, lastly, the saving of $15,000,000 in pensions, a saving affected, as veterans know to their sorrow, by the most outrageous scheme of retrenchment and disloyal villification of Union defenders ever conceived by an American cabinet official.

Thus it will be seen that the only act which is intrinsically entitled to entry on the credit side of the Cleveland regime, silver repeal, is due as much to Republican as to Democratic effort; and, in fact, as has been shown by Democracy's passing of the Bland inflation bill, was directly antagonistic to Democratic instinct. Upon the debit margin, what is it that confronts us? A money panic unequalled in our whole history, turned by Democratic tariff folly into an industrial panic that has cost the nation $4,000,000,000 in money, loss and untold misery, suffering and anguish; a foreign policy stained by the failure of an executive conspiracy to assassinate republican government on a friendly island; a civil service rocking with scandal and odious with hypocritical pretences of reform; and a congress in which Democracy and Populism, alternately vying with each other in the formulation of madness and folly, have carried to every sober business interest the chill of uncertainty, doubt and dread.

Democracy's year of power has been a year of sorrow and of loss.

AND NOW, MURDER.

For the bloody scenes that yesterday attended the annual charter election in the city of Troy, N. Y., culminating at noon in the brutal and cold-blooded murder of a prominent Republican whose presence at the polls was a legal and patriotic protest against thugism, ballot stuffing and police intimidation, Senator Edward Murphy and Governor Roswell P. Flower are as directly responsible, in morals, as if they had personally pulled the trigger of the gun that did the deed. That they are not amenable in law is undoubtedly in part due to the fact that they, and others like them, have long had the making of the law, and have molded it to suit their own disreputable purposes. There is no escape from this conclusion. Disguise it and befog it as their apologists may, when Roswell P. Flower, acting under the orders of his senatorial boss, refused to sign the bi-partisan election inspection law, thereby slapping the faces of the twenty-seven Caristian ministers, Protestant and Catholic, and the thousands of reputable laymen who had petitioned him to divide representation on the electoral boards of inspection equally between the two political parties, he made a public proclamation of his willingness that the old rowdyism should re-appear, and took upon his shoulders responsibility for the foreseen result.

That result quickly came. The old cohorts of skilled repeaters brought up the river in canal boat loads, and captained by men who are the direct pensioners of Murphy and his minions, came again upon the scene just as they have come at every preceding election of importance since Murphyism became a fixed political science. They had yesterday, as they have had before, any day these past twenty years, absolute immunity from arrest by a police force recruited from their own ranks and schooled in the knowledge that their clubs must hit Republican heads only. And when, with a courage almost sublime in view of the discouragements, the unsalaried fighters for municipal reform, having as their incentive only the consciousness of a solemn civic duty, made bold to challenge this invasion from the slums, there occurred the familar clash, in which skull cracking and eye-blackening was polished off by a cruel murder.

The Trojan gentleman who, by virtue of past incidents of this character, now occupies a senatorial seat once the prerogative of statesmanship and manhood, is entitled to congratulation upon the logical fruition of his dirty work. He is privileged now to view, in its real significance, the meaning of the methods that he has suggested, plotted and perfected. From his soft retreat in the cushioned easy chair that once held a Marcy, a Seward and a Conkling, this smooth manipulator of thugs, coat-throats and hired assassins is permitted to run his eye over a spectacle of peculiar triumph. We wish him joy of it. We likewise wish joy to the pliant tool of Murphyism and Hillism, to the saintly man of Watertown who gives money to the poor that his politics orphans and pauperizes, to the jelly-honed state executive who dare not say that his soul is his own.

AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM.

With respect to the various local contentions waging in official circles in neighboring boroughs as to the proper course to be pursued in constructing sewers, THE TRIBUNE can speak only in a general way, since it does not profess to be familiar with all the varying details. But it seems to us that the citizens of Olyphant, who in a public mass meeting the other day memorialized their local council to reconsider a vote granting the use of the streets to a private sewer company, and expressing the belief that sewers, being for the public use and the public good, should be owned by the public, have sounded the key note to the whole controversy and left little to be added.

It is not exaggeration to say that in their disregard of fundamental equities the various municipal legislative bodies of Northeastern Pennsylvania, during the past decade, have probably surpassed any equal number of councilmanic assemblages in the United States. The truth seems only just beginning to dawn upon many of them that franchises involving, unless properly guarded, uncommon opportunities for public oppression and extortion, are not things to be lightly scattered about, in response to the smiles or wiles of unctuous lobbyists, or else given away in sheer exuberance of councilmanic generosity; but that they are weighty and precious public resources, from which the community in general is morally entitled to derive a large revenue.

It will no doubt be argued that unless private companies take hold of these business problems of municipal development, the problems will not get solved. This is an especially plausible argument in relation to sewers. Let us concede the point. Let us confess that under our system of sending to councils many men who, to put it mildly, have a very inadequate conception of their duties and responsibilities, it is not always practical to intrust to borough councils the business management of certain public works, such as the water supply, the electric and gas light plants, sewers and the like. Does this afford any reason why, in letting this management fall upon private corporations we should not exact a fair rental for the public privileges granted, and exercise, in the municipality's name, such explicit supervision over the private management as will protect the public in its true rights?

Americans generally and, and North eastern Pennsylvanians especially, are awakening to the fact that in many past instances of official generosity to corporate petitioners they have been imposed upon. If these existing impositions are irremediable—and we have in mind several that are—the knowledge of this fact should spur public sentiment on to greater future vigilance. The influence of corporate enterprise is a good and wholesome one, properly created and restricted; and it only becomes a hurtful influence when the indifference of the public invites it to go to extremes. It becomes, therefore, the duty of the public to ascertain the proper and fair limit to which this influence may safely go; and then to put down its chalk mark and set up its notices of warning.

And no more important problem than this is today before the public.

CLEVELANDISM'S FRUITS.

If the house's adoption of the Bland seigniorage bill has not completed the awakening of American business men to the perils of Democratic re-ascendancy, it is difficult to conjecture what could. Elected mainly through the efforts of business men, because of their belief that he was pre-eminently the representative of sound politics and level-headed legislative action upon questions of finance, Mr. Cleveland's first year of absolute control has witnessed such a shrinkage in values and such a widespread and intensified loss to labor as had never been known before. In the place of that firm conservatism which they had boasted so exultantly was Mr. Cleveland's basic characteristic, they have seen him repeatedly go to the Populists with offers of fusion and dicker; they have learned with chagrin of his appointment of the Populistic Gresham to the chief place in his cabinet; and, finally, they have had the crowning lesson of his helplessness to thwart the tariff-smashers of his own party in their persistent precipitation of the greatest industrial reverse in the history of the American people.

It is instructive to note the coincidence of calamities wrought by Democratic incapacity, a coincidence apparently justifying the old adage that "it never rains but it pours." First we had the bankers' panic, hastened, if not wholly caused, by the Populistic demand for free silver coinage with silver a constantly declining commodity. As if the $2,000,000,000 thus swept out of circulation in the depreciation of American securities was not enough, we next had the working man's panic, or the industrial stagnation that followed the economic rampage of Democracy's southern brigadiers. Here was another calamity, the aggregate effect of which, upon the home-life of our people, was worse and more destructive than would have been a fiercely-fought civil war. It was a blow that fell, not upon the wealthy, or creditor classes, although they had suffered, too, but squarely and cruelly upon the great poor or debtor classes, upon themen whose only resourse was the daily wage that they could earn. The loss to them, on an average, of twenty per cent. in wages meant, not the difference between flashing opulence and a slight, almost imperceptible curtailment, but the difference between modest competence and direct struggle, poverty, hunger and even bodily suffering.

But last of all, at a time when the country is yet in the throes of these two prior inflictions, and while courts of bankruptcy and corporation receiverships are busy with the work of inquiry, adjudication and readjustment, we have the third and most vicious blow of all, which is the blow of the rebel brigadiers and the western inflationists combined, at the national credit. That it must fail seems certain, because as a nation we have done nothing to deserve it. But for its ultimate miscarriage we shall owe no thanks to Grover Cleveland, whose cultivation of this political fusion, was its direct incentive, invitation and opportunity. If it shall finally fall short of its vital mark, there will be no debt of gratitude owed to the Democratic party, but rather one of supreme gratitude to the kindly overruling Power which shall have given it to our people to rise superior to the party which has had destructiveness of wealth, industry and medium of exchange as the triune purpose of its partisan existence.

Clevelandism is at last bearing its true fruits. How do you like them?

Alas, Too True.
Wilmington News.

In a wrestling match prejudice can generally throw judgment.

Wal', It Certainly Needs It.
Chicago Dispatch.

It is thought that the senate will discount Mr. Wilson's bill slightly.

Not an Unmixed Evil.
Chicago Dispatch.

Oscar Wilde has postponed his American lecture tour on account of the financial depression here. Sweet are the uses of adversity.

The One Punctuation Mark.
Philadelphia Press.

A most singular silence attends the free trade debates at Washington. While they are in progress you can hear wages drop all over the country.

Love's Lightening Power.
Wilmington News.

A five-pound coal scuttle which a boy carries for his mother is twice a heavy as a twenty-pound lunch basket carried for the same boy's girl at a picnic.

They're Not of That Stripe.
Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer.

If men who are elected to congress do not remain in their places to make up a quorum for the transaction of business they should resign and permit the election of men who will.

An ex-Editor on Journalism.
Hon. C. Ben Johnson.

"If a man be patient as a beaver, keen eyed as an argus, sly as a fox, plucky as a lion, thick-skinned as a hippopotamus, gentle as a gazelle with his friends and cold blooded as a crocodile with their enemies, with nerves that can be sustained without sleep and a stomach to which ginger pop is as refreshing as champagne and boarding house hash as a delicate ragout; if, in addition to all this, he has a soul to ignore the shiny sleeve to his coat and the hole to his unmentionables, with no fear of those he owes and no expectations from those who owe him, he may start in with some faint show of success in country journalism.

With a Short Reply.
By Editor News.

Mr. Johnson would acknowledge, if confidentially approached, that his vision takes in quite a syndicate of successful country journalists, who began almost on nothing, but who today are in possession of a handsomely paying enterprise, enjoy the good will of the community in which they live, exert a powerful influence on the body politic, are looked up to, are independent, cheerful, contented and happy. The man who starts out determined to win success in any undertaking, if he brings to bear ability, enterprise, zeal, unflinching devotion to high principle, loyalty, integrity and enthusiasm, will find it, even though he train his efforts in the materialization of a country newspaper.

Showing Little Tenderness.
Washington Post.

Even the Mugwump press is using a curry comb on Josiah Quincy's halo.