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SCRANTON, AUGUST 19, 1895.

Tomorrow's primaries in Philadelphia will doubtless settle the pending contest, and, we dare say, settle it properly.

An Old Dodge Revived.

The chapter of true history printed last Friday on this page has elicited from the local organ of Senator Quay several epithets and a number of misstatements, which were to have been expected; but only one thing that calls for extended comment. The Republican, in denying that a proposition was made to Senator Quay soon after his visit here, offering, in the interest of harmony, to divide the Lackawanna delegation in the ratio of 3 for Quay to 4 for Hastings—which offer was spurned, both by the senator and by his local representatives, who declared an intention of getting at least six out of the seven delegates—simply adds deliberate falsehood to its numerous other offenses.

That proposition, in the form of a suggestion that the senator withdraw all opposition to Mr. Willard's friends and trust to their natural generosity for substantial appreciation of the courtesy was first mentioned to Senator Quay personally, by William Connell, who, although not in sympathy with Mr. Quay's fight upon the Hastings administration, nor doubtful of the result of a fair appeal to the public, was nevertheless willing to shield the party in this county from the consequences of a direct participation in the Quay-Gilkeson fight. Later, it was again communicated to the senator, this time at the earnest solicitation of Colonel Watres, who was directed by the Beaver leader to "see Penman." Colonel Watres did not "see Penman," for Penman, at that moment, was absent, setting up the Quay fight in Carbondale; but he did see two of Penman's local colleagues, and they promptly declined the overture. If Penman's organ doesn't know this, it can ascertain the exact details by interviewing Colonel Watres and City Treasurer Brooks.

These facts are of interest now only so far as they illumine the falsity of the charge that supporters of Mr. Quay in this county have been tricked by Judge Willard's friends. As a matter of fact, the local fight for Quay was conducted mainly by men who simply used Quay's name for purposes of their own; and who, when fairly and thoroughly beaten, now try to let themselves down easily by bellowing specious falsehoods concerning the men who licked them.

We wonder how the Philadelphia police would be conducting themselves today if Penrose were mayor.

A Lesson of History.

Under Republican national administrations it was the rule that imports decreased while exports increased. This meant a balance of trade in our favor, that caused gold to flow into the country. Under the Cleveland administration, the rule has been reversed. Exports now are diminishing and imports augmenting. In other words, we are selling fewer home-made goods and buying more foreign-made goods, thus turning the balance of trade against us and draining out our cash.

Proof of the foregoing assertions may be obtained from the Democratic organs themselves. For example, the Philadelphia Record lies before us, with an editorial admitting that while imports during the fiscal year 1894 amounted in value to $654,994,622 and exports to $869,204,937, imports in 1895 grew to $731,957,875, and exports fell to $793,397,890. The Record contends that this shrinkage in the value of our exports was "due solely to the decrease in our foreign trade in agricultural products;" but this only tends to confirm the Republican argument that the emasculated Wilson-Gorman tariff, by striking down our promising prospects for a profitable reciprocity in trade with numerous foreign nations and opening the gates to increased foreign competition, injured the farmer not less than it tried to cripple the manufacturing interests of the United States.

But going back to 1892, the last year of the Harrison administration, we discover that while, owing to a free list of $482,238,336, the total value of our imports was larger than during either 1894 or 1895, being $876,186,671, our exports were largely in excess, being $923,237,032 for domestic merchandise. This is a showing which the Democratic party will never equal. It signifies a condition of affairs strikingly in contrast with the stagnation and, later, timid convalescence of business during the two years and four months of Grover Cleveland's second presidency.

There was a time, if report be true, when the Scranton Republican wasted no love on William H. Andrews. That was when he is said to have refused to give Papa Joseph $20,000 for supposting Delamater. But, of course, things are different now, eh, Kurnel?

Saturday's Primaries.

The results of the primaries held on Saturday are interesting, but not unexpected. Senator Quay carries the five delegates in Chester county, after a spirited fight; and the indications are that he has made good his claims as to Fulton, Cameron and Mifflin, which each elect one delegate. On the other hand, the administration wins in Lycoming, Attorney General McCormick's home, overwhelmingly, thus adding three expected votes to the Gilkeson column of certainties.

The battle now turns to Philadelphia, where Tuesday's primaries will probably decide the issue, one way or the other. If Senator Quay should be successful to the extent of securing from twenty-five to thirty of Philadelphia's seventy delegates, the prestige of that gain would probably exert a winning influence upon the primaries in Lehigh county, which are the latest on the list; and render the final result doubtful. Anything less than this, however, will be ineffective to save the senator's cause, which, to all appearances, now seems, if not hopeless, at least desperate.

The people of Philadelphia have been fully informed as to the issue involved in this contest; and if their will shall be permitted a fair expression, there is little doubt that they will sustain the conscientious administration of Governor Hastings with as much pleasure and enthusiasm as they last fall helped to call it into power.

It is well to know that Mr. Quay will be held directly responsible for the consequences of his revolutionary convocation of the state committee to jockey along his candidacy for the chairmanship by a profuse doctoring of the convention roll call. The temper of the party is not suited to much more nonsense.

The Atlanta Exposition.

On Sept. 18 will open, in Piedmont park, Atlanta, upon grounds embracing 189 acres and containing twelve principal and a host of subsidiary buildings, the Cotton States and International exposition, designed to cement the growing fraternal and commercial relations between the north, the new south and the Latin-American republics of Central and South America. The enterprise will be upon a scale unequalled in the section directly interested, and surpassed, so far as the western hemisphere is concerned, only by the recent Columbian exposition at Chicago. It will afford unrivalled opportunities for industrial Pennsylvania to make new conquests in the fair field of trade, and to build up new alliances of mutual pleasure and profit.

The commissioners in charge of the Pennsylvania exhibit has opened headquarters in room 6, Legislative building, Harrisburg, and is now actively engaged in the work of preliminary arrangements. In a recently issued circular it announces that the state exhibits, so far arranged for, will be in the Manufactures and Liberal Arts and the Forestry and Minerals buildings. In the former building space has been set aside for a display of the products of manual work in the educational, penal and reformatory institutions of the state, and for a general exhibit of school work. The main state exhibit will be in the Forestry and Minerals building, where specimens of woods and minerals will be shown, with models of a saw mill, anthracite coal breaker, bituminous coal mine, coke plant in operation, and other exhibits illustrative of the chief industries of the state. In the same department there will be an agricultural display, embracing, besides the usual features, models of typical Pennsylvania farms, a display of the silk industry of the state, paintings of forest leaves, and complete collections of butterflies and insects, and of ferns and grasses. A beautifully mounted collection of the birds and animals of Pennsylvania, surpassing that which attracted so much attention at the World's Columbian exposition, is now being prepared under the direction of the noted ornithologist, Dr. B. H. Warren. The Committee on Pretroleum expects to present a fine display of Pennsylvania oils, with drilling and refining processes. The Committee on Machinery and Manufactures are devoting their energies toward securing private exhibits of machinery and manufactured goods, for which an ample premium is offered to exhibitors in the expanding markets of the new south. The Committee on Fine Arts and Historical Relics invites correspondence from all persons interested, with a view to the collection of representative works of art and of historical relics, especially of the colonial and revolutionary periods. A collection of Indian relics is also proposed. The Committee on Woman's Work and the Ladies' Auxiliary commission will co-operate to obtain for the Women's building and other departments of the exposition an exhibit of the result of women's work in Pennsylvania.

The helpfulness of such gatherings of the embodied skill and genius of the nations is too thoroughly established to require a re-statement of the case. Every merchant is aware of it and every discerning artisan can perceive its beneficent influences in his daily work. The Atlanta exposition will mark for a long undeveloped section of our common country the beginning of a new era of thrift and progress such as has never before been experienced by its people; and liberal exhibitors will be the ones who will gain the trade benefits. It is to be hoped that Pennsylvania, which disposes of more of its products to the south than any other state, will be fully alive to its present matchless opportunity.

The virtuous indignation of Senator Quay's small staff of Philadelphia Reformers at what they call the offensive partisanship of the Philadelphia police is truly and beautifully touching, not to say sublime.

If the Scranton Republican had any sense of humor, it would cease to hold itself up to ridicule by posing as Judge Willard's friend.

It is fortunate that the talk of two Republican conventions at Harrisburg next week proceeds chiefly among Democrats. The Republican masses would quickly administer punishment to the Republican leader who should countenance such a split.

The property owners of Mulberry street can double the value of their holdings the moment they decide to pave that popular thoroughfare with asphalt.

Fire Insurance by the State.

A paper recently read by Charles Acton Ives before the Business Men's association of Newport, R. I., advances several novel ideas. In 1893 in Rhode Island the total amount of written fire risks was $477,650,683; the total of premiums received was $4,272,049; and of losses paid, $1,769,782. This shows, during a year of business depression, a difference between losses paid and premiums received amounting to $2,502,267; and Mr. Ives makes the point that this difference, or profit, was more than twice the total expenditures of the state government of Rhode Island for the same year, which were $1,243,578; thus proving that fire insurance must be profitable to somebody.

That somebody he proceeds to locate by reproducing from the Rhode Island Fire Insurance Commissioner's report for 1894 a table stating the general business of 81 companies for 1893. The table has six columns; one showing the name of the company; another the capital of the company; a third, the amount received for premiums; a fourth, the amount paid for losses; a fifth, cash dividends to stockholders and policy holders; and a sixth, brokerage, fees, salaries, office charges and other running expenses. Fifty-eight companies report complete details of their business. These companies, upon an aggregate capital of $38,810,075, received for premiums $70,189,331.10, paid for losses $47,261,959.58 and of the $22,927,371.52 of gross profit thus derived returned in dividends to policy holders and stockholders only $4,409,130.26, while $24,835,219.13, or nearly $2,000,000 more than the year's gross profit, was expended in brokerage, fees, salaries, office charges and other running expenses. In other words, the man who now profits by fire insurance is the agent or middleman.

The foregoing companies, it needs to be borne in mind, were stock companies. The total amount of risks taken in Rhode Island by companies doing business on the mutual plan, in 1893, was $386,354,770; the total of premiums paid was $3,358,207; the total of losses paid was $1,019,123; the total of brokerage, fees, salaries, office charges and other running expenses was only $507,580.45, and the total amount of cash premiums returned during the year as profits or surplus on terminated policies was $2,577,705.17. Mr. Ives, by official tables, also shows that after the payment of all losses and cash dividends the stock companies hold in invested funds, not including cash presently available, over and above the total amount of their capital stock, the sum of $122,919,998.81, which represents part of the large sum that has "been taken from the channels of individual saving and wealth and comfort for the benefit of those who do our insurance business for us, after paying expenses and dividends."

Inasmuch as the foregoing statistics conclusively show first, the superiority of the mutual over the stock plan of insurance; and secondly, that fire insurance is a highly profitable business, Mr. Ives wonders why the state should not save this profit for its own purposes by assuming charge of the business of insurance, running it cheaply on the mutual plan, and applying the profits to current governmental expenses. Says he, in conclusion: "The fact that the people of the smallest state in the union annually pay for insurance, in excess of the amount of their losses, more than twice the cost of their state government is worthy of grave consideration. It is clear that under the plan of state insurance suggested there would be a saving of about 50 per cent. in the rates of insurance, and there would be no question, moreover, about the solvency of the insurer."

Who would ever have guessed that Matthew Stanley Quay would one day occupy the political shoes of the much-maligned George William Curtis?

It will not be long until newspaper readers in Pennsylvania will be treated to the glad surprise of something beside politics.

Why is Lackawanna avenue, in the vicinity of its intersection by Franklin, not paved with brick between the street car tracks?

Senator Quay denies that he "owns the state committee; "but that isn't equivalent to denying that he would like to.

As a howling-success reformer, Senator Quay is sadly shattered by his own iconoclastic record.

The probability is that no man now alive will live to see a third-term president.

Cameron's individual silence is immaterial so long as his money talks.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

The Facts in the Case.

Wilkes-Barre Record: "Under the caption 'A Chapter of True History,' the Scranton Tribune tells the inside facts relating to the election of state delegates in Lackawanna county. It is an interesting story, and fully disproves the claims of the Quay organs that the Hastings men declared war upon Senator Quay. The facts as given by The Tribune indicate, on the contrary, that the Hastings men made every effort consistent with honor and manhood to compromise with the Quay faction, but without success. The Tribune shows that when Judge Willard was appointed to the Superior court there was no expectation of such a contest between the state administration and Senator Quay. The only thought among Lackawanna Republicans was the importance of Judge Willard's nomination and election for the full term in order that that county might have a representative on the bench. The probability of a bitter contest for the election of the state delegation was scarcely thought of until the Republican disturbed the existing harmony by a vicious and unprovoked attack upon Governor Hastings and Judge Willard. Even after that the friends of Willard and the state administration were ready to effect an honorable compromise on a basis of harmony and fairness. The result is known. Quay made his fight and failed to secure a solitary delegate from Lackawanna county. Had he been less arrogant he might have secured at least a part of the delegation. His arrogance overcame his better judgment—he made the fight and lost. For this defeat he and his lieutenants are alone responsible, for they rejected every reasonable offer for compromise and forced the friends of Judge Willard to rally to his support."

Democracy's Record.

Cleveland World: "Ex-Secretary Whitney says he is proud of the record the Democratic party has made. Here is a part of that record which taxpayers will rejoice over:

"'Washington, Aug. 13.—The increase in the national debt under President Cleveland's administration, as shown by official records Saturday, was $200,632,051.'

"'Washington, Aug. 13.—The decrease in the foreign commerce of the United States under President Cleveland's administration, as shown by official records, is $334,000,000.'

"'Washington, Aug. 13.—The balance of trade, which was in our favor in 1892 to the extent of $202,875,696, under one year of Clevelandism melted away to a balance of $18,737,728 against us.'

"Surely the Democratic party at last has a record."

A Threat from Schuylkill.

Pottsville Miners' Journal: "Mr. Quay's friends, who will be in the majority in the state convention, may take it into their heads not to vote for two candidates for Superior court from the same section of the state, and they may discover a more deserving recipient for their favors than Willard, or even Rice, who permitted General Palmer to be turned down so stupidly. Judge Orlady's chances are two to one better than those of either Judges Willard or Rice, since he was open in his fight against Mr. Quay and the coal region judges were—well, have a care, gentlemen."

Singerly Floors Grover's Boom.

Philadelphia Record: "No political party in the United States will ever nominate or elect a third term president. That matter has been settled."

THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW.

Theo. Roosevelt, in Sept. Forum.

The question at issue in New York city just at present is much more important than the question of a more or less liberal Sunday excise law. The question is whether public officials are to be true to their oaths of office, and see that the law is administered in good faith. It is worth while briefly to state exactly what the condition of affairs was when the present board of police commissioners in New York took office, and what was that course of conduct which has caused such violent excitement. The task is simple. On entering office we found—what indeed had long been a matter of common notoriety—that various laws, and notably, the excise law, were enforced rigidly against people who had no political pull, but were not enforced at all against the men who had a political pull, or who possessed sufficient means to buy off the high officials who controlled, or had influence in, the police department. All that we did was to enforce these laws, not against some wrongdoers, but against all wrong-doers honestly and impartially. We did not resurrect dead laws; we did not start a crusade to enforce blue laws. All that we did was to take a law which was very much alive, but which had been used only for purposes of blackmail, and to do away entirely with the blackmail feature by enforcing it equitably as regards all persons. Looked at soberly, this scarcely seems a revolutionary proceeding; and still less does it seem like one which ought to need an elaborate justification.

SHALL CUBA BE FREE?

Clarence King, in September Forum.

When the Cuban government is set up, as it soon will be, we shall have equally as good international authority and precedent to recognize a state of war in the island, as Spain did for our own confederate insurgents forty days after the shot on Fort Sumter. We can return to her, in the interest of liberty, the compliment she paid us in behalf of slavery. The justice will be poetic. With all possible decorum, with a politeness above criticism, with a firmness wholly irresistible, we should assist Spain out of Cuba and out of the hemisphere as effectually as Lincoln and Seward did the French invaders in Mexico in the 'sixties.

The Sovereignty of Law.

Theo. Roosevelt, in Sept. Forum.

The one all-important element in good citizenship in our country is obedience to law. The greatest crimes that can be committed against our government are to put on the statute books, or to allow to remain there, laws that are not meant to be enforced, and to fail to enforce the laws that exist.

STILL A DOUBT.

From the Chicago Tribune.

"Kitty, what brings that young chucklehead of a Spoonamore to this house so often?"

"Why, Uncle Allen, he comes to see me."

"What do you know about him?"

"I know he is a very pleasant, agreeable young man, who belongs to a good family, always dresses well, is in good circumstances, and is well educated and well read."

"What else do you know about him?"

"I know he hasn't the habits many young men have. He doesn't drink, smoke, gamble, attend prize fights, or go into bad company."

"Does he keep a race horse?"

"Oh, no; I am sure he doesn't."

"Part his hair in the middle?"

"No."

"Let his finger nails grow long?"

"No."

"Quote Isben?"

"Never."

"Chew gum?"

"Oh, no."

"Wear pointed whiskers?"

"He does not."

"Carry chocolate and caramels in his pocket?"

"No."

(Still suspicious)—"He may be all right, Kitty, but you'd better watch him. I'll bet $1 he calls his father papa."