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THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

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When the firemen of Scranton once fairly get together it goes without saying that they are decidedly all right.

Concerning Rural Discontent.

It is not to be denied that from any standpoint the outlook of the farmer in this country is beset with great perplexities. The men who want to make political capital out of rural discontent unquestionably overdraw the picture They make the farmer's case out a great deal worse than it is. They point, for instance, to the recent decline in prices as if it were exclusively an agricultural misfortune. They forget that if by this decline the farmer's income is reduced, the cost of his living is in turn diminished. The articles that he buys for his household, everything for which he pays out money, save only taxes and fixed charges, have fallen in price in substantially the same proportion, so that the farmer who has no interest bill to pay is relatively almost if not quite as well off as he ever was.

In some respects he is better off. Particularly in the eastern states there have come to him, in recent years, and there are likely to continue to come to him in the near future, conveniences and social possibilities never previously known. It is not an uncommon thing today for the farmers in the more populous older states to receive daily deliveries of mail, with all the freshened knowledge and quickened interests that they imply. Formerly one mail a week was the rule. Already in some localities there are movements toward the bringing of the farmer into direct communication by electric railroad with the cities, throwing within his grasp the opportunity to enjoy as never before city advantages reinforced by country independence. In this direction the near future is rich with promise. In this connection it is scarcely necessary to call attention to so well-known a fact as that modern science and invention are rapidly doing for the farmer a proportion of benefit equal or nearly equal to that which they have already conferred upon the industrial arts, so that the farm which once was thought fit only to yield one annual crop of wheat or oats or corn now suffices, under the stimulus of improved fertilizers and in obedience to better educated husbandry, to give forth diversified and repeated crops specially adapted to the most profitable commercial demand. If the complaints of agriculture are examined closely, a large percentage of them will be found to arise from those tillers of the soil who have not kept pace with the times, but who instead go on in the ways of their grandsires, raising wheat when the market calls for hay or buckwheat or celery, and corn when the real return is to be got from a harvest of timothy or clover.

We do not wish, however, to draw too rosy a picture. The farmer has just grievances and these will in future require thoughtful consideration. Some of them are indicated in the letter of Westbrook Merring in another column. There is very little doubt in the mind of the candid observer that in matters of legislation, state and federal, the farmer during the past score of years has been getting rather less than his just share of attention. The corporations during these years have had their skilled lobbyists at every capital in the nation, and while not all of the charges brought by office-seekers against corporations as a class are true, it yet requires to be said in all frankness that the corporations have not as a rule gone out of their way to foster interests other than their own. Measures affecting those interests have seldom lacked influential assistance in legislative halls; but not until very recently has there been organized effort to secure a similar safeguarding of the interests of the farmer. That in coming time if we would avoid increasing mischief there will have to be more of broad statesmanship and less of class selfishness in our legislative assemblies is clearly foreseen; and the intelligence and patriotism of the great mass of voters will doubtless rise to the necessity.

The betterment of the farmer's lot cannot be expected, however, along the lines of intensifying class friction. That is what stamps the free silver movement as vicious. Improvement which does not reach all the people is either special privilege or robbery. The fact that we may have erred in the past in the direction of permitting class favoritism before the law does not imply that a cure for this error is to be found in a ten-fold more drastic application of counter-irritants.

Some excellent advice is offered by the Troy Times in connection with the present business situation. "The duty of the individual," it points out, "is as a debtor, to pay his obligations promptly when he can. Small accounts are often allowed to remain unpaid through carelessness. These small bills that might be paid and are not would in the aggregate be a large sum to put into the channels of trade and keep things moving. Then there should be an incredulity toward rumors which have no responsible backing and which are trivial until they are believed. A perfectly solvent institution can be crowded into embarrassment by a needless run. Leniency of the creditor as well as promptness of the debtor is desirable in times when haste may mean waste." Hard times are always greatly aggravated by heedlessness, and, on the other hand, can be materially ameliorated by a little common sense.

Tariff Prospects.

The Republican party believes in the fullest and fairest protection to every legitimate American industry. It believes in protecting the farm as well as the mill; the raw material as well as the finished product. It stands always for American interests as against foreign interests. It maintains the obligation of American lawmakers to legislate first of all for the welfare of American homes and American citizenship. This is a cardinal policy of Republicanism which has been overwhelmingly indorsed by the people at the polls. It is a fundamental article in the Republican creed, as unalterable as the party's loyalty to honest elections; to sound currency; to the defense of American rights in every quarter of the globe; to the honor of the Flag. But protection is not a schedule. It is a principle whose application and manner of enforcement vary with the conditions of the times. * * * This country needs two things above all else to insure its firm prosperity and its leadership among the great nations of the world. The first is an absolutely sound and stable currency. The second is a tariff which shall yield ample revenues and afford adequate protection to American industries without overstepping the limits of justice and fairness. The Republican party is pledged to accomplish both these results. It can be trusted to fulfil its pledges.

With this declaration of the New York Commercial Advertiser, which is substantially a rephrasing of the opinions expressed on this point in Major McKinley's letter of acceptance, all Republicans will agree. In view of the practical certainty that congress will be convened in extra session on March 4 next by President McKinley to take steps to replenish the revenue, it may be none too soon to give assurance to the business interests of the country that the Republican party will undertake no course of action calculated to further inflame and unsettle business conditions. The next congressman from this district should be a man whose commercial relations are such that while inclining him to favor adequate Protection for our local industries they will at the same time dissuade him from lending his assistance to violent or radical measures of tariff revision, should such be proposed.

We do not anticipate that there will be any danger from this source. The Republican leaders and the Republican press are united in urging moderation and caution in this connection—not because they wish to cast any reflection whatever upon the Republican tariff measure of 1890, which more effectively fitted the conditions that called it into being than did any prior or subsequent enactment of its kind; but because the intervening interval of Democratic misgovernment has brought the country's vital forces to such a low ebb that skillful treatment must incline to patience. Yet since the subject has been mentioned, we feel that the Republican intention with reference to it should be clearly and fully understood. The long-suffering victims of past political agitation have a right to feel that in the election of McKinley they will at last gain the chance to recuperate in peace.

When Mr. Bryan becomes older he will realize that a leader's greatness is measured not by how much but by how wisely he talks.

The Booming Slate Trade

The greatest wonder in the line of trade for the current year is the hold that the roofing slate of the Slatington region has taken upon the European market, a hold which bids fair to make still further progress. Last fall owing to the depression in trade the largest firm in Slatington, the Carbon Slate company, determined to try to place the hard and unfading slates of their region upon the English market and sent a representative over the water upon that errand. This experiment resulted in several trial orders being procured and exported. The effect was almost instantaneous, and on July 13 last a train of seventy-two cars (equaling 5,500 squares) was shipped by that firm, it being the largest single shipment ever made up to that time. On Aug. 1 their total shipments this year for export had reached 210 cars. In July last they and another firm each sent a representative to Europe. Both returned two weeks ago and brought orders with them for over 50,000 squares, to be shipped at stated periods within one year.

The output of the Slatington region from Danielsville to Slatedale averages 135,000 to 150,000 squares per annum. The several thousand squares already shipped have cleared the banks, so that now there is no stock to draw upon, and as the previous output had only been equal to the home consumption it is a question where the extra quantity is to come from. Every large size slate that will be made for the next eight months is already sold and orders are arriving every few days. All the quarries are working at their full capacity, with little regard to weather.

But the greatest satisfaction to the slate operators is the praise bestowed upon their product by the British and continental dealers, who are re-shipping a great many squares to various parts of the world, South America and Australia in particular. The reports already made have caused quite a stir in shipping circles and this summer is the first that ship owners have quoted regular rates for this class of trade. The New York and Philadelphia journals have on several occasions lately called attention to it, and the Philadelphia Journal of Commerce has had a representative for the past three weeks in Slatington writing up the trade and making arrangements to classify it in the daily trade reports in the same manner as the coal, iron and other industries are now.

Two months ago a few sample orders of natural slate blackboards were exported, with a view of opening a new field for this extensive branch of the slate industry of which Slatington is the center, three-fourths of the world's output being manufactured, it is claimed, at this pushing Pennsylvania town. All this augurs well for the future of the slate industry, which is as yet only in its infancy. It also shows what may be expected in this and other industries when the McKinley administration shall have succeeded in restoring reciprocity.

Arthur Sewall has acted with proper spirit in surrendering the presidency of the American Merchant Marine association in view of its activities in support of McKinley. He owed that much to his running-mate, Mr. Bryan. But he needn't pretend to be so all-fired angry. Everybody knows he favors just the legislation in behalf of our ocean carrying trade to which McKinley is pledged and against which Bryan is publicly recorded. In other words, Sewall is in practice at least a Protectionist, and he cannot hope to make the public think otherwise.

Coming Home to Roost.

The assertion of the British foreign office that any attempt on England's part to prevent the future slaughter of Christians in Turkey would cause at least three other European powers to engage England in war is startling if true, but it probably isn't true. The saner supposition is that Salisbury is merely trying to dodge from his duty behind a diplomatic fiction.

But if it were true, which from every point of view is seemingly incredible, would it be the proper thing for Great Britain, the boasted leader among European powers, to permit the prospect of hostilities to divert it from the prompt performance of an obvious moral duty? Is it to be said of British valor that it can be cowed into supine acquiescence in wrong by the show of apparently superior force? The present premier of England appears to forget the teaching of England's premier poet and philosopher that

"Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just."

If three other powers in Europe menace Anglican interference at Constantinople with the threat of immediate war, it comes only as a logical legacy of England's past unscrupulousness. There would be none of this growling, sullen jealousy if in prior complications the officials of Downing street had habitually played fair. There is an adage which tells of chickens coming home to roost. Is this receiving an exemplification in connection with the British foreign office's present feeble effort to solve the Armenian problem?

The delicate foundation upon which the business factor known as credit rests is clearly shown in the reported cause of the recent run which closed the Troy national bank. A man standing in front of the bank's chief entrance suddenly dropped dead. This drew a crowd and its presence near the bank created a panic among the bank's depositors. Yet the Altgelds, Tillmans, Waites and Bryans wonder why capital takes fright from their menacing and revolutionary talk.

The esteemed Washington Post, although for sound money, doesn't have a particle of relish for the condition of affairs which makes the United States treasury dependent for its gold reserve upon the self-interest of Wall street. As a matter of fact, neither do we. But under McKinley it is hoped that the nation will be in receipt of a revenue sufficient to pay current expenses, and that alone will do much to weaken Wall street's grip.

An examination of recent election returns shows that in Arkansas the Democratic loss as compared with the vote in 1892 was 22 per cent.; in Vermont, 25 per cent., and in Maine, 40 per cent. In Maine the Republican gain was 26 per cent., and in Vermont, 40 per cent. This ratio, if maintained throughout the country, would give McKinley 150 electoral majority.

The Philadelphia Press regrets that Governor Hastings did not make a public statement of his reasons for pardoning John Bardsley. Under the circumstances this was perhaps unnecessary, since the only reason possible for such an act of clemency was that it was done to save Bardsley's life.

"Under the gold standard," remarks the Times, "the American people are paying interest to foreign money changers aggregating annually more than twice as much as our entire gold production." And, pray, how would the election of Bryan change that?

Mr. Bryan is so indignant over the bond sales that he would almost pass a law making it a capital offence for a banker to ask for the redemption of a treasury note in gold. Mr. Bryan is beginning to suffer acutely from an aggravated attack of over-seriousness.

Perhaps all things considered Americans hadn't better say much about Europe tolerating the brutalities of the Turk so long as they themselves make no move to abate the atrocities of Butcher Weyler.

As between Frank Black, a clean-cut, clear-eyed, level-headed man, and a facile trimmer like Boyd Thacher it oughtn't to take the New York voter long to choose.

Commodore Singerly calls on the free silverite federal office holders who are supporting Bryan to resign, but he will have to speak louder.

The Wilkes-Barre Record seems to think that Governor Hastings is not a candidate for senator. Has it any authority for that inference?

Even Mr. Paine, it seems, is disposed, in the turnpike affair, to join the Middle-of-the-Roaders.

It probably won't be the lawyers' fault if that turnpike muddle is ever settled.

If Bryan resembles a rocket, Sewall's role must be to stick.

Protection and the Farmer

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir:—When the discriminating sugar trust tariff became a law, which is the main cause of the present hard times, as predicted by the friends of Protection, the farmers as well as other industries received a terrible blow, but instead of curtailing their production, as many other industries were compelled to do or operate at a loss, the farmers labored all the more both early and late and raised an abundance, often at a loss, to supply the nation with cheap food. What would have become of the people under the management of the present administration only for the farmers, and what is their reward? With a low advalorem duty and some of their main products on the free list and prices of farm products the lowest ever known, they are compelled to compete with cheap labor countries like Canada and others, when they are abundantly able to supply the nation with the necessaries of life and keep the people's money at home, while railroad fares, taxes, salaries of public officers, lawmakers and services of professional men remain the same as under Protection. What is to become of the farmers of this nation? Must they fall to a level with the farmers of free-trade England? And if so, what will be the result to the nation? The Democratic party has lied to the farmers. Will the farmers listen to any further lies from that party? We think not.

Furthermore, municipal and rural interests are not in harmony as they should be. Are the people of the cities willing that those who labor on the farm shall have the same Protection under the tariff as the cities demand for their laborers and industries? We fear not. But unless this is done, prosperity will not return to this nation under Protection. There shoul be no discrimination. This is a question that is handled very carefully at the present time. It has been said the only way to help the farmer is to increase his consumers. The same thing might be said of the manufacturer. Would not Protection decrease competition and increase consumption alike to the farmer and the manufacturer? It has been said the farmer is not a consumer like the laborer. Does the farmer not buy clothing, boots and shoes, household goods, groceries, coal, farming implements and machinery, and many other manufactured articles that the common laborer does not need? Do the city members of the legislature not wish to make the laws for the rural districts, but desire home rule for the cities?

It has been said that during the last twenty-five years the municipal tendency has been for great corporations and disreputable demagogues to assist special class legislation; and that this same tendency has legislated the farmer to the wall, often to the detriment and eventually to the ruin and downfall of the country. That there has been a decline in agricultural and village prosperity during the past ten years, every observing man freely admits. That during the same decade there has been a remarkable growth and prosperity in our cities is revealed by the census statistics of 1890 with startling vividness. While the manufacturer has legislated for the interest of the manufacturer only, commerce for commercial interest's, and trades unions for the benefit of their particular trade, the farmer whenever it has been his privilege to constitute a ruling factor in legislation, has always legislated for the best interests of the whole country and posterity. This same rural tendency made it possible to secure the adoption of our present Constitution of the United States. The best in the Roman law and in the English constitution is the outgrowth of rural thought. The seeds of human liberty have in all time germinated on the soil, not in the counting house exchange, warf or factory. Monarchies can, in a large measure, afford to do without this rural influence in the halls of legislation, but republics never. This influence has made the free school system possible. Decay and destruction have come to every nation that has forsaken agriculture.

Westbrook Merring.

Maplewood, Pa., Sept. 22.

MEXICAN OBJECT LESSONS.

The following instructive letter, taken from the New York Tribune, is from the pen of Charles S. Broadbent, formerly of this city. It is dated Del Rio, Tex.: "A woman recently came from Mexico to visit her sister in Texas. The woman's husband works as section hand on a narrow-gauge railway in Mexico for 35 cents a day. Her sister's husband works on the Southern Pacific, in Texas, as section hand at $1 a day. The Mexican woman wore a calico dress for which she paid in Mexico 25 cents a yard. A merchant at Comstock, in this county, had identically the same pattern of goods in his store, which he sells at 10 cents a yard. The man in Mexico works seven and one-seventh days to buy his wife ten yards. His brother-in-law in Texas works one day for the same.

Henry J. Ware and wife, of this place, have just returned from a sixty-day trip of observation and pleasure through the interior of Mexico. They visited Monterey, Saitillo, San Luis Potosi, City of Mexico, Aguas Calientes, Guadalajara and many other cities, towns and haciendas, and the sights they witnessed among the working people were pitiable. Mr. Ware has always been of Democratic proclivities, but this trip changed his political bias. Among many similar cases he instances a smelting works, employing 3,000 hands. Their pay each is 25 cents a day. Their only clothing is borrachos, for the feet, a large apron made of the leaves of a native plant, which is fastened around the neck and fall down to the thighs, and a native straw hat. In the markets he found little piles of mesquite beans, prickly pear leaves and other like productions that grow wild in the country. These "edibles" are arranged in separate little piles on the floor of the market house, and sell at one cent a pile—food that our street Arabs would turn from in disdain. On the haciendas the pay and clothing are as scanty, but the laborers get a ration of corn and other cultivated plants, which they cook in the most primitive manner.

The poorest people in our country live in luxury compared with the laboring classes in Mexico. If the working people of the United States do not believe the statements as to Mexican labor, let the unions send a commission of three or five intelligent unprejudiced men to Mexico, not to stop at hotels and stroll through the lovely plazas of the cities, but to go into the workshops, smelters, foundries and farms and talk to the workmen face to face. Let them step into the squalid homes, among the naked children and quarter-clad women and see how and on what they live. If the commissioners can speak Spanish and not rely on interpreters, so much the better; and they will come back thanking God they and their children are citizens of the United States. Don't go among the rich people, who are not one-fiftieth of the population, to ascertain the blessings of a free silver regime. These live in luxury from the toil and sweat of the masses; but go among the masses, and see their misery and hopelessness, and then vote for a depreciated dollar if you think it will be a blessing to American workmen.

THE IDEAL NEWSPAPER.

Defined by Editor Joseph O'Connor in an Editorial in the Buffalo Enquirer.

It is proper on this auspicious occasion to say once more what has been heretofore said as to the aim of the Enquirer. It will seek to give the news of the neighborhood, the nation, and the world, cleary, graphically, and, so far as honest purpose may serve to guard against error, accurately and truthfully. It will strive to avoid the manufacture of sensation and the misrepresentation of facts—through prejudice, malice or interest.

Let us lay stress upon this matter, since it is the chief function of the press to multiply the relations of the individual with humanity; and the knowledge which it gives to each of us in regard to the strivings, the accomplishments, the sufferings, the aspirations of men of every class and creed, everywhere, is the distinguishing characteristic of a morern life. It puts us in touch with every movement and in sympathy with every struggle; it sets us among the spectators who weep over this tragedy or laugh over that comedy; it admits us to the deliberations of a foreign council chamber, and permits us to watch the experiments in the laboratories of science; it introduces us to distant festivities and far off griefs; it quickens the brain with the thought of strange activities and strengthens the heart with suggestions of passion and emotion of which we would not otherwise dream.

Comment on passing affairs is always the privilege and often the duty of a newspaper, and the standpoint of the Enquirer in the discussion of men, events and policies will be the good of the people. That will be its criterion for measurement, its touchstone of quality. It has no quarrel with parties, for they are necessary in a republic, and it has no hostility to partisan papers, for, if conducted with courage and integrity they may do good service within their own sphere, not only in challenging the errors of the party they oppose but in checking the evil tendencies of the party to which their loyalty is due. But the best of partisan papers are often open to temptation to be unfair, and, not seldom, are compelled to advocate what is wrong, since no party can be always in the right; and because the Enquirer wishes to be free, as far as possible from the bias of obligation, in the formation of its judgments, it has chosen to be independent.

Yet nobody should confound independence with neutrality. The Enquirer will have opinions whenever occasion calls for them, and it will give them free and frank expression, but they will be opinions based on the merits of a measure, the qualities of a man, the nature of a policy, the character of a crisis—each in itself, and all with reference to the general good. These opinions are not likely to be always right, but we think it safe to promise that they will be always candid and honest, the outcome of fair consideration, and representing the right as it is given us to see the right.

The Enquirer would like to be on terms of intimate and trusted friendship with its readers—close friendship which does not require absolute agreement in all things, but recognizes and makes allowances for occasional differences, and renders the friends content, each with the other, taken by and large. It hopes to be ever sunny in its disposition and kindly in its judgments, leaning to tolerance, generosity and charity, rather than severity. It believes in the progress of events and the betterment of man, and, thinking that pessimism has no place in a young and expanding republic, it is given over to optimism. It likes uprightness in morals and softness in temper, and it puts faith in good humor and courtesy. And above all it means to keep clean, clear and pure enough to be a welcome guest in every happy household.

THE TWO CANDIDATES.

From the Allentown Chronicle.

The great ability of General Harrison was not recognized till he made his wonderful series of speeches in the campaign of 1888. The same result is following from Major McKinley's speeches. Up to date he has addressed all kinds and conditions of men, and his speeches show a wealth of knowledge, versatility, grace of expression and a broad patriotic fervor far away from the feelings of a partisan, which have placed him in the very front rank of our political thinkers and statesmen. The more speeches Major McKinley makes the bigger he appears before the people; the more Bryan makes the smaller he grows in public estimation.

HERE'S A QUESTION.

Lew Rosen's London Letter.

Will Great Britain ever get the United States back under her imperial sway? The question at first blush, sounds and seems paradoxical, but some tinge of plausibility is given to it in a new book which I have just read. This book, "The Lost Possessions of England," by W. F. Lord, maintains that the republic of the west is rather temporarily severed from than permanently lost to Great Britain. The arguments adduced are specious, but they contain food for thought. I often meet Englishmen who hold that the United States will eventually break up into separate powers, and that the Seaboard states, strongly impregnated with the traditions of Anglo-Saxondom, will ultimately be reconciled to the sovereignty of the crown, against which their fathers revolted 120 years ago. Englishmen point to your imitation of their language, their literature, their fashions, their social usages, and their laws and, with overweening pride they see in these facts potent indications that their hopes may be realized.

HE WEAKENED AT LAST.

He feared no bucking broncho that went
snorting o'er the plain;
He had tamed the brute for pleasure and
could do the same again.
He had steered the ponderous mail coach
where the rocky passes sweep
In mystifying zigzags close to chasms
broad and deep.

And sometimes he had ridden, in an economic stress,
Out in front, upon the pilot, of the cannon
ball express;
His reckless hungering for speed often
tempted him to seek
The joy of a toboggan down the nearest
mountain peak.

But success must have its limit. Ere his
mad career was through,
He boasted once too often, and he met his
Waterloo.
He though no pace too devious or swift
for him to strike,
But he howled for help and weakened
when they got him on a bike.

—Washington Star.