

The Scranton Tribune

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If the men who do the paying on the Scranton ball team were as erratic and uncertain as some of the men who try to do the playing, there would be some excuse for work like that of yesterday. As it is, there is none, and a riot act is in order.

The New Tariff Bill. Undoubtedly the first essential in a tariff system is that it shall produce sufficient revenue. On this point all economists agree. The new tariff bill now in conference at Washington, it is believed, does this, probably from the moment of its enactment, but certainly when the volume of imports rushed in in advance of its enactment shall have been consumed. With this fact established, a source of distrust in the business outlook will be removed.

From the Republican standpoint the next requisite is equitable protection to American industry and labor. This standpoint having been endorsed by the country in 1894 and again in 1896, it follows that the measure which re-extends such protection to the great bulk of our industries, as the pending bill does, is what the people want. Having got it, they will experience an increase of confidence and a new baptism of commercial hope.

The nearness of the end of tariff agitation and uncertainty ought finally to impart life and vim to business which, until the tariff changes are completed, is necessarily kept guessing. The country is big enough and rich enough in the natural elements of wealth to prosper under almost any kind of revenue legislation; but to do so there must be continuity of purpose in those laws and not a new tearing up each time the administration changes. The endeavor of the framers of the Dingley bill has been to prepare a measure which shall, upon the whole, so nearly meet the necessities of the case that, with only minor changes from time to time, it may stand on the statute books for a generation. Time will soon tell how far this aim has been realized; but at all events no radical departure in tariff legislation need be anticipated for at least a decade.

These things being true, why should not times improve? Naturally we need not expect a boom. But it is reasonable to expect steady and perceptible betterment, and we believe this expectation will not be in vain.

There is a revival of the report that Senator Quay will at the expiration of his present term retire from active political leadership and work. He probably will if his enemies will let him; but he isn't the man to retire under fire.

Bellamy's New Book.

That Utopia has not lost its fascination despite the widely diffused knowledge that it can have no existence in sober reality is shown by the avidity with which the public is buying Mr. Edward Bellamy's second gospel of socialism, "Equality." A note from the publishers, the Messrs. Appleton, informs us that within three days after the unusually large first edition was printed, a second edition had to be put on the press, and we suppose that by this time a third is in the binder's hands. The author of "Looking Backward" has opportunely timed the date of his re-appearance in the ranks of the controversialists: the restlessness of the multitude under the stress of hard times is even more pronounced now than it was when he made his first bow as an economic illusionist.

"Equality" is a sequel to "Looking Backward." It takes up the latter's characters and simply elaborates with a greater copiousness of rhetoric the author's original conception of a society in which all industries are owned and operated by the nation with each citizen as an equal share-holder and beneficiary. In his first work Mr. Bellamy confined himself mainly to contrasting the general features of our present society with the ideal state which he therein described; in the present book he goes very far into detail. Perhaps the strongest point in "Equality" is the picture which he draws of womanhood under the imaginary regime. No longer forced to look to man for maintenance, and absolutely his equal in point of earning capacity, woman in the Bellamy republic marries whom she pleases, when she pleases and remains married only as long as she pleases; is strong, robust and healthy, no longer cares for ornaments, wears clothes like those of man and is quite the ideal creature in every respect. As a result the social evil has vanished, children come only when welcome, destitution puts no limit on the expansive capacities of the rising generation and the whole atmosphere of society is lifted to a level of contentment and tranquil happiness.

This simple citation of the author's interesting habit of reaching 100 per cent. regardless of the inherent frailties of human nature must serve as a specimen of his entire treatment of his theme. With Mr. Bellamy nothing is impossible. Express a wish, and by a turn of the wrist it is gratified. Indicate an objection to his theory and, with a wave of his wand over the impetuous children of his facile imagination, it is met. One cannot frown such an adversary because he has all the advantage. While you are dealing with the imperfect factors of everyday life, he deals with flawless conceptions of the ideal world. The lines of argument, therefore, can never meet. At the same time, the judicious reader can profit largely from a perusal of Mr. Bellamy's book. No writer of our day is a keener critic of existing social defects. None makes more vivid the faults which now exist. To accept in his work what is valuable and pass by what is fantastic and visionary will be the purpose of discretion. Then,

too, his mastery of language and his nice adaptation of words to ideas makes him an author to be studied.

The Philadelphia Ledger says the sugar schedule of the completed tariff bill will be arranged by the Sugar trust. We'll wager that it will not be.

Better Not Take Chances.

The present commissioner of immigration, Dr. Senner, has written for one of the magazines an article which undertakes to combat the proposition that the immigration problem is any longer a serious one. He admits that it was serious at one time—in those years when the annual influx of aliens amounted often to 800,000, many of whom no sooner touched American soil than they became charges upon our public institutions and prolific breeders of trouble. But he avers that that time has passed, and that heavy immigration has been made practically an impossibility for the future.

In support of his statement, the commissioner cites statistics to show that in the fiscal year of 1895-6 the total number of persons landing at New York—the port of landing of four-fifths of all the immigrants—was 263,709, but deducting from this number the 48,804 persons who had been in the country before and the 95,269 who came to join their immediate families only 119,636 who may be properly called immigrants are left. The total immigration for the two previous years was likewise small, and the returns for the fiscal year just ended will doubtless show a decrease.

How far this article of Dr. Senner may be an attempt to justify his own official work must be left to conjecture; but in so important a matter as the safeguarding of our citizenship we do not think this government ought to leave very much to chance. Because immigration in the past two or three years has fallen off is not in itself a conclusive proof that, if let alone, it will from this time onward continue to decline. The safer plan undoubtedly would be to make such provision by law that if the current should again set in very strongly toward our shores, it may be met, checked and filtered. Past neglect in this direction should teach prudence.

Because it might destroy a market for fodder the Boer has refused to permit electricity to supersede horse-power on the street car lines at Johannesburg. Yet Jamieson is censured for raising such reubens.

Is Non-Partisanship Feasible?

Students of municipal problems will read with interest if not with approval the article of ex-Governor Roswell P. Flower in the July Forum in which he discusses the question whether non-partisanship in municipal affairs is feasible. The conclusion reached is that it is not. Says Mr. Flower: "Anything approaching disinterested and successful non-partisanship in city government, however well intended, is, under existing conditions, almost impossible. I believe, therefore, that, for the present at least, municipal government is safer, as a rule, in the responsible hands of partisans than in the necessarily irresponsible and uncertain hands of non-partisans. Illogical and unreasonable as division on party lines in municipal contests may be called, I do not see that, in itself, it is an evil; I do feel that it is often a powerful bulwark to the cause of order and good government. Where universal suffrage prevails, as it does in America, and no qualification of intelligence or property is imposed, it is a very fortunate thing that men are divided into parties, and that the strength of the party ties is able to restrain the ignorant, the depraved, the impetuous, from the advocacy of dangerous doctrines or the support of unsafe men."

Governor Flower admits that partisan government of cities has often been corrupt. But he contends that, because of the causes of failure of partisan municipal government are analyzed, it will be found that official plunder and knavery have succeeded chiefly when party ties have been weakened, when interest in party issues or organizations has waned, and when, by reason of such indifference, the hands of a party are permitted to stain its good name as well as to ignore its principles. The thing then to do is to punish that party by electing its rival to power. The recourse to a non-partisan movement in his judgment offers absolutely no assurance of permanent betterment, for the simple reason that even a non-partisan movement, to succeed, must adopt partisan methods and thereby open the door to the identical evils it was supposed to bar out. There is a racism in this description of a non-partisan movement which will readily be recognized as true to life.

A so-called citizens' movement, springing perhaps from actual and serious grievances, animated by the most unselfish interest, and intent only on the accomplishment of good, finds itself confronted with the conditions as they exist, and compelled to use, in order to be successful, the very methods which non-partisanship deprecates. This is the weakness of municipal non-partisanship. Representatives of Good Government clubs and other civic organizations confer with a view to the nomination and election of a non-partisan ticket. Their actual numbers are small. Behind them, we will say, an honest and praiseworthy sentiment, with but few votes and no organized or ramified organization. Watching them and encouraging them is the miscellaneous assortment of political "outs,"—organizations of disaffected elements, offshoots of the large parties, perhaps one of the large parties itself (now in the minority of course),—all enviously and with the desire for political success and the rewards and opportunities which come with it, willing to make loud professions of reform, and anxiously playing for position in a campaign to be opened. A succession of conferences follows; the first difficulty encountered being, as a rule, not any differences among the parlying representatives as to the principles or issues of the campaign,—the issues are usually left to the original non-partisan,—but a difference as to the proportionate representation of the various political organizations on the ticket, and as to the availability of the names suggested for candidates.

Thus, at one bound, whether willing or not, those who fancy themselves developing and practicing their theory of non-partisanship are plunged into the same kind of politics which they have condemned in parties. The ticket is nominated, not in convention by delegates duly chosen after public notice, but in a club corner, by self-appointed nominators. It gives thorough satisfaction nobody; for it is a compromise of conflicting interests; the nominees are responsible to no one organization, but each considers himself the representative of the association by which he was put forward. The candidates are not usually the men the reformer wants; for the ideal public officer is not always a vote-getter; and

of course, so practical a consideration as availability is not lost sight of even by these idealists. For the head of the ticket is often chosen, therefore, a practical man, without positive qualities, and, consequently, free from antagonisms, whose actual qualifications for the office are unknown, however his name may be or however honest his intentions. The subordinate places on the ticket are filled with ex-officio holders out of a job, whom who have served one or another of the component elements making up the non-partisan conglomerate, or with men more or less truer to the cause, capable but not conspicuously fitted for the office for which they are named. The German vote and the Irish vote are not forgotten in the selection of candidates. In short, the ideal non-partisanship has become a non-descript loose-jointed partnership, nominating its members in secret and by sticker, and elections contested by methods not perceptibly differing from those which are condemned as necessarily inseparable from party machinery.

Such non-partisan movements, when successful, usually culminate in a single victory. As might be expected from an alliance between so many diverse and uncertain elements, the results of victory to be directly not against the Hindus but against the government officials themselves. Kipling's brilliant story "On the City Wall" has given America readers a hint of the ordinary rows in the crowded big cities of India. They amount to little more than the conflicts in Belfast between Catholic Irishmen and Orangemen on St. Patrick's day or the 12th of July; or perhaps not so much, for an original can spread a great deal of war talk over a very small area, and the violence while the feud inherited from Boyne water is apt to be sanguinary wherever two or three Irishmen are gathered together. When the Hindus meet the Mohammedan procession with bricks and the Mohammedans retort by invading a Hindu temple, the police are called in and a riot ensues. If it is too widespread and violent for them the soldiers lend a hand. But serious losses of life seldom attend these outbreaks.

But in the present instance the trouble, however it began, developed into an angry demonstration on the part of the Mohammedans against the English. When, a few weeks ago, two Englishmen—one a teacher, the other a clerk, a civil servant—were fired upon from ambush as they left the club it was suggested that probably the assassin was a member of a revolutionary organization of some native whose domestic privacy had been invaded by sanitary officers during the plague. But now that mob violence has succeeded the taking of reprisals by individuals and word has been sent up the country to the Mohammedans calling upon them to come down and help for the outraged brethren, perhaps the English government will not dismiss the situation in the off-hand manner with which all Indian news is received "at home."

No doubt the measures taken to abate the famine and the plague are near the bottom of these disturbances. It is almost a human impossibility for men of western races to understand the peculiarities of an oriental population, while the latter in their turn are incapable of understanding "western science." Mohammedans are not noted for a very great delicacy in expressing their opinions or enforcing their laws. It seems perfectly natural to them to rush into a plague-stricken neighborhood and tear the remedies that experience has approved in their own country. They tear down buildings, burn clothing, remove and break up families with the finest enthusiasm, but without a trace of tact. And the sons of burnt fannies broil over their "wrongs" and conceive vain fancies of women assaulted and men murdered, and out of sanitary science and philanthropy grows much work for the deputy commissioner's dog whip.

If this is all there is to the present outbreak it will soon be disposed of. But there have been so many stories about of the consequences of England's antagonism to the Sultan on England's Mohammedan subjects that the occurrences in Bombay and Calcutta may well have a disquieting effect. It is true these rumors and sulks of the Mohammedans have not been followed by any unusual understanding of Indian affairs, but that western matter-of-fact historians can tell when mischief is brewing in the East and subtle in the West, over 50,000,000 Mohammedans in British India?

In case of trouble England would be able to place little reliance on the educated Europeans. The Hindu schooled abroad returns to his native land a vain, talkative individual, and for the most part, a patient-leather boots. The Mohammedan is Wall Dad of the Kipling tale. He talks a cynical philosophy, haughty at religion, quotes western poetry, and is ready to "gut kine in the Hindu temples" on the smallest provocation. England would have to rely upon the fortune and the faith of her own brave men should a serious conflict arise. That she would be able to manage the business now one who knows India can doubt. There is not in history a finer example of the power of the disciplined northern races than the rule which a handful of bitingly ignorant Englishmen exercised over the hundreds of millions of natives who do not understand them and whom they do not understand, but control as the shepherd dog controls the sheep. The British herds dog controls the sheep, the British population of India amounts to about 100,000 persons. The English language is spoken by about 250,000 persons. The native population is nearly 300,000,000. The figures alone tell an amazing story of what direction and courage can do for government.

SUMMER. Whether 'tis nobler in one's coat to suffer The horrid temperature of midday, Or to discard one's excessive garment, And thereby cease perspiring? To live, or to breathe Once more, and by a single act to free From misery and those strange, unnatural ural cats? That heat of caustic—'tis a separation 'twixt the wish to feel the atmosphere, perchance the breeze; but here's the rub: While in this blustful state what calls may come, or what demand? Must give us pause; that much respect 'tween to one's own wife and demand. In time of toil who would not shirt sleeves show? Who'd grunt and sweat beneath a pom-pom coat? In other words, to say that every one of the 16,000,000 of pupils must pursue these elemental studies required for a common school education, viz., reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, grammar, American history, civil government, drawing and the underlying principles of hygiene and physiology. If you ask, "Why must upon this matter the answer is found in the fact that thorough instruction in these subjects will meet the necessities of life, and give all the education that 95 per cent. of the masses of our children can ever hope to obtain.

If this course is to be enriched, let enrichment come through the fullness and richness of the equipment of the teacher. Let not higher branches be forced into the lower grades, and there can be no produce superficially. By a proper correlation of these studies time and opportunity will be found for the richness of instruction which will give to the child consciousness of power, and at the same time lay a broad foundation upon which he can build as high as he may be possible. Through the equipment of the teacher, the minds of the children can be turned toward the enjoyment which a knowledge of nature brings, and there can be instilled into their own lives that humane sympathy, that kindness of heart which will lead them to deal gently with every thing that has life, whether it be a beast, bird, or flower, not from sentiment alone, but from knowledge. Through this knowledge of the life of the child, and the children whose lives will be spent upon the study of nature, and the richness of life is not a drudgery, but a noble science and the possible source of great happiness. Through the teacher, in connection with these studies, the lessons of life may be

brought home to the children through intelligent study and discussion of current events.

If we are to build an educational pyramid, let us insist that its base shall be of the most thorough practical course of elementary study possible, which every child must take. When these elementary studies have been thoroughly mastered by all alike, rich and poor, high and low, then allow those who can, to pass on to secondary studies, providing for these pupils, as in the elementary grades, the best teachers and appliances possible, keeping always in view the requirements of accuracy and thoroughness. When secondary studies are completed in high schools and academies—colleges and universities will provide higher education if demanded, and schools of law, of medicine, of science, of theology, and of poetry, will give the technical preparation which each profession demands.

THE RIOTS IN INDIA.

From the Times-Herald. The renewed reports of rioting by Mohammedans in India present a sinister aspect, for the anger of the mob seems to be directed not against the Hindus but against the government officials themselves. Kipling's brilliant story "On the City Wall" has given America readers a hint of the ordinary rows in the crowded big cities of India. They amount to little more than the conflicts in Belfast between Catholic Irishmen and Orangemen on St. Patrick's day or the 12th of July; or perhaps not so much, for an original can spread a great deal of war talk over a very small area, and the violence while the feud inherited from Boyne water is apt to be sanguinary wherever two or three Irishmen are gathered together. When the Hindus meet the Mohammedan procession with bricks and the Mohammedans retort by invading a Hindu temple, the police are called in and a riot ensues. If it is too widespread and violent for them the soldiers lend a hand. But serious losses of life seldom attend these outbreaks.

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