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SCRANTON, MAY 21, 1902.

For governor of Pennsylvania, on the issue of an open field and fair play.

JOHN P. ELKIN, of Indiana, subject to the will of the Republican masses.

The Sanctity of Contracts.

IT MIGHT just as well be recognized first as last that the anthracite miners will make a serious mistake if they urge their soft coal brethren to break their written contracts in order to join in a sympathy strike. There is no principle more deeply rooted in business life than the sanctity of contracts. It is at the foundation of all credits; virtually at the base of all honorable dealings between man and man. The labor organization which should set the example of disregarding at its pleasure a contract that, if broken by the other side, could be made the basis of a successful suit in damages would as certainly destroy itself as if it should draw a razor across its throat.

There is some talk now in favor of arbitration. Yet if a contract with the miners union is something which can be set aside at the will of the union regardless of the rights or equity of the other party to it, what assurance is there that the finding of an arbitral tribunal would have any binding force? We repeat that the very worst blow which the organized labor movement could receive would be to establish before the world the character of a contract breaker. That was what killed the last strike of the Amalgamated Association. An agreement was entered into between the Association officials and Pierpoint Morgan, and later this agreement was coolly repudiated by the Association as a body. Morgan was a responsible factor. Had he broken faith he could have been sued, and a verdict obtained against him, or against any corporation for which he was authorized to act, would have been financially as good as a government bond. But President Shaffer of the Amalgamated Association had no such responsibility. His signature to a contract, whatever its good faith so far as he personally was concerned—and this is not questioned—had behind it absolutely no guarantee of fulfillment by those for whom he was nominally but not legally acting. It was as a rope of sand, to be broken under the first strain.

At the time of Shaffer's humiliation John Mitchell made a public declaration which gained for him the applause and respect of men in all parts of the country. He declared without qualification in favor of the sanctity of contracts and intimated that organized labor had no other honorable pathway than to observe its contract agreements in scrupulous good faith. We believe that this is his thought and fixed belief today. It certainly must be the guiding principle if labor organizations are to command public respect and retain public sympathy and approval.

With Senator Quay aspiring to be chairman of the convention and John Elkin going on its floor to take personal charge of his candidacy, Harrisburg ought to be an interesting place on or about June 11.

No Occasion for Anger.

AFTER telling the Washington correspondents that John Elkin hadn't the ghost of a show and that that little upset in Beaver was merely a local ebullition, Senator Quay goes and spoils all by notifying his lieutenants that it is a fight to the death.

We don't look upon it in that light. Nobody is going to get killed in this canvass. Some reputations may suffer through instability and apparent disregard of plighted word, as always happens in political contests. And some temporary disappointments may be felt, as is inevitable when there are not enough offices to go around. But apart from these incidental features we perceive no basis for anybody getting angry or excited.

Senator Quay knows full well that when he ordered John Elkin out of the fight for governor, after encouraging him in the first instance to become a candidate and letting him go forward with his candidacy until it was too late to lay down without loss of self-respect, he took the chance that Elkin might refuse to be dictated to and might carry the issue before the people. He had had ample proof of Elkin's ability as a fighter; in fact, his own return to the senate was a concrete evidence thereof. It, therefore, was the senator himself who injected into the canvas whatever elements of disappointment to himself have since appeared. If he is angered because of this he must look in the mirror for the reason.

We know positively that there is no ill will or angry feeling among Elkin's

friends. They are not after Senator Quay's scalp—he has not Quay said that his political race was run?—nor do they have in mind any measures of retaliation for what Quay has done to Elkin. They simply propose to let the Republican people of Pennsylvania pass upon the proposition that Colonel Quay can usurp the functions of a state convention and stifle party preference at will. They have a clear right to make this appeal and they are making it now without encouragement, as the returns show. If beaten they will acquiesce in the verdict until such time as the justice of their cause shall win clearer recognition. If successful they will bear no malice.

Consequently, on with the battle and let the best man win.

"Unless there shall be a volcano in Philadelphia," says the Press, "John Elkin cannot secure a majority in the state convention." He can and we think he will. But even Philadelphia is not volcano-proof.

The Cuban Republic.

IN A GENERAL way the framework of the Cuban republic resembles that of the United States, but there are some points of difference deserving of notice.

As in this country, the president is elected for four years; but a constitutional provision against third terms removes the temptation to establish a dictatorship—the rock upon which so many Latin-American republics have split. The election of president is by direct popular vote. There is a vice-president who, as in this country, has nothing to do.

The legislative power is vested in a congress of twenty-four senators—from each province—and a house of representatives composed of one member for every 25,000 or fraction of more than 12,000 inhabitants. The senators are elected for eight years, one-half retiring every four years; and the representatives serve for four years, one-half retiring every two years. There is no discrimination in pay and any inhabitant in any part of the island who is otherwise qualified may represent any district. Congress is to meet twice a year, each session to be not less than forty days long. Revenue bills may originate in either house.

There are many other features of the Cuban constitution of interest to students of civil government but unavailable for mention here. As a paper constitution it presents some admirable and few dangerous points; but, after all, the real proof of a constitution is in the manner in which the people apply it. That is the uncertain factor in the Cuban problem.

Recruiting the Ministry.

NOTWITHSTANDING that a higher rate of assistance was paid last year by the board of education of the Presbyterian general assembly to students preparing for the ministry than ever before, the number of candidates was smaller than in years and, in proportion to the gain in church membership, is steadily declining. It has become a problem in the Presbyterian as in most Protestant churches how to recruit the ministry, and its solution is vexing the best minds in all denominations.

The only recommendations which the board of education had to offer before the assembly were these: (a) Prayerful effort to promote a general revival of religion; (b) the enlistment of ministerial influence in the urging of young men to qualify for the ministry; and (c) a greater recourse to prayer, it being the board's thought that prayer should be encouraged in the closer in the family and in the social gatherings, as well as in the more formal congregational devotions. By means of prayer an atmosphere of piety might, it was thought, be created which would incline the minds of young men away from the material things of life and toward things spiritual. This would stimulate ambition to do Christian service in the ministry.

All of these recommendations are sound and timely. We recall no period in the world's recent history when there was greater need than at present for a revival of religious interest and spirituality as a wholesome check upon the predominance and immense multiplication of material concerns. Although the figures show that church membership and attendance are keeping pace with the progress of the times there is reason to believe that the spiritual life of the churches is not what it should be. In the wave of liberalism now sweeping over Protestantism, a wave especially high in the Presbyterian denomination, as illustrated among other ways in the election of Dr. Van Dyke to the moderatorship, there are numerous signs of a relaxing of the hold which a church ought to have upon the life and conduct of its members. From possibly an excess of austerity and self-mortification the pendulum seems to be swinging to an equal excess of indulgence and worldliness.

But the material fact must not be lost sight of that the minister of the gospel, whatever the degree of his spiritual exaltation, must have food, shelter and the means of maintaining at least modestly the growing intellectual and social requirements of his position. The system of ecclesiastical government in the Catholic church has eliminated this problem so far as that church is concerned, but Protestant denominations must face it frankly. No amount of praying and no revival of spirituality can permanently recruit the ministry unless the material conditions are equitably adjusted. So long as in the majority of pulpits the pay is less than that earned in secular pursuits calling for neither special education nor extraordinary skill, and the opportunity offered for rearing and educating a family is less than in most of the mechanical trades, just that long, while human nature remains as it is, will the ranks of the ministry be depleted. It is the pocket book as well as the soul of the Christian church which needs a revival of religion.

We don't look upon it in that light. Nobody is going to get killed in this canvass. Some reputations may suffer through instability and apparent disregard of plighted word, as always happens in political contests. And some temporary disappointments may be felt, as is inevitable when there are not enough offices to go around. But apart from these incidental features we perceive no basis for anybody getting angry or excited.

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