

DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

Judge of Supreme Court, Christopher Heydrick, Venango County Congressmen-at-Large, George Allen, Erie County Thomas P. Merritt, Berks County

Even Indiana—a State with a favorite son—instructs its delegates for Cleveland first, and for Gray only provided Cleveland cannot be nominated.

Those who have observed the Prince of Wales say that one of the peculiarities that stick to him is that of reddening about the cheeks and forehead when suddenly vexed. With him it is easy to raise a royal flush.

The Newdealer continues to hold up for David B. Hill with a tenacity that might easily be used to better advantage. Hill is so far out-distanced in the race that the memory of his boom is all that remains. The Newdealer would do well to drop him and place the State ticket where Hill and Gray now stand.

The recent announcement that this government has paid \$21,000 out of the contingent fund to Italy as indemnity for the lynching of the New Orleans Italians is arousing much discussion. By what authority Harrison has used money for such a purpose is not stated, and the Democratic House will probably inquire into the matter. When Benny goes so far as to imagine he is the United States Government it is time to present him with a back seat.

A NEW YORK JUDGE has decided that where a local assembly of the Knights of Labor disbands the funds revert to the district assembly to which it was subordinated. The local assembly in this case was composed of silk workers, who dropped off until only seven (enough to hold the charter) were left. There being considerably over \$500 in the treasury, the seven remaining members voted to disband and divide the proceeds. This the court held they could not do.

Just how General Lilly intends explaining to workingmen, when he asks for their votes, why he refused to comply with the semi-monthly pay law until he was placed under bail, is one of the enigmas of the coming campaign. Still, Lilly will not need to do much explaining. The average Republican workingman would vote for him if he were the greatest criminal on earth. Anybody who is stamped with Quay's brand seems good enough for the votes of that party.

SENATOR GORMAN, of Maryland, is receiving much attention just now from a certain clique in the Democratic party. He is named as a man who would be acceptable to all portions of the country as a Presidential candidate, and, it is claimed, would unite the party. That is all that can be said for him, politically. His views on the tariff are those of high protectionists, and they are sufficient to keep his name out of the Chicago convention. We want no protectionists of any kind.

The committee appointed to investigate the working of the pension office, as conducted by Commissioner Raum, have brought to light such abuse of power that calls for the immediate dismissal of that official and a number of his subordinates. When Tanner was fired from charge of this department it was thought the country had heard the last of pension scandals, but recent revelations show that bureau is a veritable hotbed of corruption, embracing every form—political, moral and miscellaneous. The most influential Republican papers are calling upon Harrison and Noble to demand Raum's resignation, and for the sake of the country's name it is hoped their request will be heeded.

Cleveland and Victory.

The wisdom of nominating Cleveland is patent to every man who takes any interest in politics. As has been frequently said he is himself a platform. He has clear convictions and speaks them frankly. One need not be a Democrat to admire his high conception of public office as a public trust. His courage and fearlessness in expressing his ideas upon tariff reform cost him a re-election, but brought the overwhelming majority of Democrats into agreement with him, and inspired Blaine to insist upon the embodiment of the famous reciprocity feature in the McKinley act.

Politicians have again and again jubilantly proclaimed the downfall of his popularity, but with no advertising bureau, no wire-pulling machinery, he emerges from all their attacks the clear, first-class choice of his party. Hillism has weakened popular trust in the sincerity of the Democratic party, and the

free silver craze has provoked question as to its sanity, but the nomination of Cleveland on a sound money platform would go far to restore confidence, and the party could enter upon the struggle of 1892 with victory assured.

Rumors of Railroad Trouble.

Rumors, emanating mainly from New York, have been in circulation for several days to the effect that employees of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad were dissatisfied and likely to engage in a general strike. Inquiries fail to obtain any foundation whatever for the rumors, and, what is more, inasmuch as no union men are employed on the Reading Road, or at least on the old system, the likelihood of a general strike is extremely improbable.

As a matter of history the troubles between the Reading Company and its employees are well known. When the company overcame those troubles the union men had to go or sever their connection with their unions. This applied as well to members of the railroad brotherhoods as to the Knights of Labor, and the order has been in force since.

The conditions on the Lehigh Valley and New Jersey Central roads not being the same, it is natural that the employees of those roads who belong to unions should have some doubt as to the position their new employer, the Reading, would assume with regard to them. It is probable some of them have talked over the matter, but, so far as is known, President McLeod anticipates no trouble. It is not even known whether the question of unionism has been raised.

It has been flatly denied in official sources, however, that the men in the Reading's employ are in any way dissatisfied.

Coal Operators and the Combine.

Pathetic is the word to describe the business position of some of the coal operators of the anthracite coal region. Apparently they are the owners of valuable properties, and are in that position of independence and power as employers of large numbers of men which ambitious men strive for a lifetime to attain.

But as a matter of fact they are veritable slaves of a soulless combine, which uses them as so many pawns in its mammoth financial game. They can mine coal, it is true, but they cannot sell it. The independent proprietor of an insignificant broom factory is a king among men in comparison with the individual operator under the combine, for he can go into the open market and sell his product to the best advantage.

The individual operator fills so many cars of coal as the combination furnishes him. He knows not to-day what to-morrow may bring forth.—Tri-Weekly Record.

"Protection or Free Trade" in Congress.

The Republicans kicked up quite a row in the House last week when they discovered that the Democrats were printing Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade" in the Congressional Record. It seems that when a member does not get a chance to speak, he is given permission to print his remarks. Mr. Fittman, of Illinois, Mr. Washington of Tennessee, and Mr. Stone, of Kentucky, took advantage of this permission and each had several chapters from "Protection or Free Trade" inserted as part of their remarks. In this way the Democrats hoped to get the best book on free trade printed free by the government, so that they could use it as a campaign document.

The House promptly supported the free trade members, but the practice is hardly to be commended, notwithstanding the fact that the Republicans have been equally guilty.

Progress of the Single Tax.

The Standard contains an interesting review of the great progress recently made by the single tax movement in this country and other countries. The single tax petition to Congress has been referred to the ways and means committee of the House, with good prospects for a favorable report.

Contrary to the predictions of Washington newspapers, the commissioners for the District of Columbia have practically made a favorable report on Congressman Johnson's bill, providing for the adoption of the single tax in the District.

The executive committee of the National Single Tax League proposes an international single tax congress at Chicago during the Columbian Exposition, to be followed by a convention of single tax organizations of the United States. Hyattsville, Md., has obtained a new charter, under which personal property and improvements may be exempted from taxation.

B. O. Flower, editor and proprietor of the Arena, declares for the single tax in the leading editorial in the April number of that influential magazine. The Detroit News and New York Times continue to advocate the single tax intelligently and fearlessly.

The late city election in Pittsburgh resulted in a victory for the candidates for council who advocated increased taxation of land values. The above items form only a part of the record for a week.

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Impolicy of Prohibitive Protection.

Prohibitive protective duties always lead to dishonesty. There is but slight difference between the crime of the smuggler who brings goods into the country without paying duty and the fraud of the manufacturer who substitutes shoddy and cowhair for wool because of the prohibitive tax on his raw material. The smuggler cheats the government and the shoddy manufacturer cheats his customers.

All laws destructive of the natural right which men have of exchanging with one another the products of their industry are unfair and onerous. In Buckle's "History of Civilization" he sets forth this principle very clearly in reviewing the attempts of governments to regulate the business of borrowers and lenders. "Nearly every country," he says, "has taken steps to prevent usury and keep down the interest of money. For, since no prohibition, however stringent, can destroy the natural relation between demand and supply, it has followed that when some men want to borrow, and other men want to lend, both parties are sure to find the means of evading a law which interferes with their natural rights. If the two parties were left to adjust their own bargain undisturbed, the usury would depend on the circumstances of the loan; such as the amount of security, and the chance of repayment. By enactments against usury, governments have always increased what they wished to destroy. Governments pass laws which the imperative necessities of men compel them to violate. The penalty for such violation invariably falls on the borrower instead of the lender."—Record.

Defiance to the People.

The Republican platforms of this year continue the impudent command of that party to the people to "change your minds!"

In Massachusetts, in Pennsylvania, and in all other States where conventions have been held this spring, every abuse and every wrong which the voters rebuked in 1890 is defended and extolled. The worse-than-war tariff, the extravagance of the billion dollar congress, the Reid autocracy, the silver swindle, the pension recklessness, and even the odious Force bill, by fair implication, are all reaffirmed as Republican doctrine and policy.

The people, upon a square issue and after a fair hearing, rebuked and repudiated the Republican record in the congressional elections by the great majority of 1,300,000. In the important and typical States of New York, Massachusetts and Iowa they repeated this condemnation last year with increased emphasis.

And yet the Republican conventions go right on defying the people as though popular government were a sham and the voters a pack of idiots. In Pennsylvania they even had the bravado of their Bourbonism to the extent of eulogizing the "earnest public and party services of Matthew Stanley Quay," the notorious embezzler and corruptionist.

The response of the people to this brazen defiance will be both interesting and instructive if the Democrats are equal to their opportunity.—N. Y. World.

Character of the German Emperor.

The new emperor, on mounting the throne, was of course expected to sustain the policy of a minister whom his grandfather had honored with every mark that a loyal subject or even a money loving one could ask. The reign of Frederick III, less than a hundred days, had been too short and too full of physical suffering to let the world know the strength and breadth of the ruler whom Bismarck next appeared to represent. In his successor the Germans have an emperor who has not only abundant physical energy and endurance, but has with it a contempt for humbug, socialism and the crooked police methods that always suggest a feeble or rotten executive. He is a practical manager and does not pretend to be a savior of society. He has no quack nostrum for poverty, crime, prostitution or the discontent that sets class against class.

His business is to see that the government machine runs smoothly, that competent men are employed, that the people's taxes are spent for the public good, and that reforms are inquired into. He has the mind of a Yankee, he loves experiment, his methods are direct. He is the sort of man that forges to the front in a new country. We can imagine him learning his trade in some machine shop, then rapidly rising to a position where inventive talent, thoroughness, patience and, above all, honesty tell—say, at the head of some great manufacturing or shipbuilding enterprise.

On his succession to power, 1888, he did what most intelligent young men do when suddenly placed in charge of an estate. He inquired how the previous manager had done his work; he examined personally into cases of alleged wrong; he noted carefully the testimony of qualified observers; his eyes were opened to the need of reform in many directions; he suggested these reforms to his manager; the manager did not agree with the master; the manager resigned and now spends his time in embarrassing as far as he can the movements of the manager who has superseded him. The immediate cause of Bismarck's resignation will be known when the emperor chooses to make the matter public. Today we can regard only the official acts of the minister, and from these infer what reason there was for his being retired.—Poultony Bigelow in Forum.

SWANK'S BOOMERANG

LUDICROUS SHOWING OF THE PROTECTIONIST "TIN PLATE LIARS."

The Manufacturers' Association Reports Three Times as Large a Product as Manager Swank Can Find—The Consumers' Association Finds Still Less.

So much has been said and written on the rise of the tin plate industry in the United States as completely to bewilder the people. On one side claims are advanced that the growth of the industry since the McKinley tariff went into effect is phenomenal; on the other, all these claims are denied and the counterclaim is set up that only a little tin plate has yet been made, chiefly by coating imported sheets of iron or steel, and that the total product is less than 1 per cent. of the consumption.

The Tin Plate Manufacturers' association has done much to create a favorable impression. On Jan. 9 it gave out for publication a list of the works in operation, with their capacity, and those now building and projected. Twenty-four of these, it claimed, were already turning out tin plate, with an estimated weekly capacity of 38,550 boxes, while four others would soon be in operation. This statement was published in full by The Bulletin of the American Iron and Steel Association and other high tariff papers.

In January last the Tin Plate Consumers' association issued a statement to the effect that the production of tin plate in this country was equal to less than 1 per cent. of the consumption, and consisted largely of tin plates made from imported sheets of iron or steel. And in order to get at the facts the association sent out to its members a circular letter requesting them to send in reports of the amount of American tin plate used by them since the duty went into effect. So far 115 reports have been received, exactly 100 of which declare that their writers have not bought any American plate whatever, while fifteen report that they have bought some—the total being 665 boxes.

Each of the above statements is vouched for as being perfectly correct. Which is to be believed? The manager of the American Iron and Steel association issues annually a directory of the iron and steel industries, a publication which is regarded as a standard authority in the iron trade. If the statements of the Manufacturers' association are correct, they ought to be vouched for by this directory, the edition of which for 1892 has just appeared. The statements have been corrected down to the middle of last February. To any one who is curious enough to consult this directory it will at once become evident that Manager Swank has not used by any means as much latitude of statement as is in his weekly Bulletin.

In the directory Mr. Swank describes the status of twenty works which are "in operation or are prepared to make tin or terne plates," and ten others now building. Of these he says fifteen are in operation. In giving their weekly capacity he is careful to use the word "estimated," which he explains in a note as meaning "reported by the respective manufacturers." The following comparison between the statements made by the Manufacturers' association and the facts as ascertained by Mr. Swank is interesting:

Table with 3 columns: Name of Manufacturer, Weekly Capacity (in 14x20 boxes), and Mr. Swank's Building Status. Includes American Tin Plate Co., Anderson Tin Plate Co., Blairsville Tin Plate Co., etc.

In addition to the above, Mr. Swank gives four plants which are now projected. Of the list of twenty-four works which the Manufacturers' association says are in operation, with a capacity of 38,550 boxes per week, Mr. Swank gives only twelve as at present producing tin plates, to which he adds six not mentioned by the Manufacturers' association. Of the twelve remaining Swank says nine are building, one is projected, one does not exist either as in operation, building or projected. For the one remaining, the St. Louis Stamping company, he gives no estimate whatever.

Not counting the number of boxes produced experimentally by Norton Bros., the Somerton company and the St. Louis Stamping company, Swank gives the "estimated" weekly production as 10,500 boxes only, or less than one-third of the amount given by the Manufacturers' association. But Mr. Swank is not willing to vouch for this much, but states that the production is as estimated by the "respective manufacturers." In the case of works now building he gives "estimates" of proposed production, but even these estimates fall far short of the production as claimed by the Manufacturers' association in their January statement.

The statements made by Mr. Swank in his directory furnish data from which can be shown the course taken by the industry here. Of the thirty works now in operation and building only thirteen intend to make their own black plates,

while seventeen have erected or are erecting tinning plants only and intend to buy their plates from the sheet iron and steel manufacturers.

Those which are making their own plates are nearly all also manufacturers of galvanized sheet iron and steel, and are members of the Galvanized Iron Association. It was this association which was chiefly interested in having the duty on tin and terne plate advanced. Their primary aim was twofold—(1) to cause an advance in the price of terne plate used for roofing, and for this purpose competing with their own galvanized product, and (2) to extend the market for their sheet iron and steel.

In respect to the first they have been very successful, for the present high price of terne plate has not only caused an increased demand for galvanized sheets, but has enabled them to advance its price directly in the face of a large fall in the price of the raw material and of all other iron and steel products. The concern now making sheet iron and steel which have erected or propose to erect tinning plants are among the smallest of those engaged in sheet iron and steel production. The large manufacturers of sheet iron and steel have shown no inclination to engage in the manufacture of tin plates. But they will no doubt be ready to furnish plates at their own prices to those who erect tinning plants.

Should the tin plate industry continue in this course, it can never be established on an economic basis in this country. Not until the large producers of sheet iron and steel erect cold rolling and tinning plants, so as to be in a position to carry the product through all the stages of production from the pig iron, or at least from the steel billets, is there any prospect that tin plates can be made here and sold in competition with the product of Wales, even under the present high duty.—New York Commercial Bulletin.

Relief for the Foreigner.

The jug handled reciprocity treaty with Nicaragua affords an example of how these modern conventions untax foreigners, while our own people go on paying tribute.

When this treaty goes into effect the United States government will have made an agreement by which Nicaraguans may import untaxed horses and cattle from this country, while it will tax our own farmers thirty dollars a head on horses and ten dollars a head on cattle. It will make agricultural and garden seeds free to the favored foreigners and will tax its own people 20 per cent. It will provide free coal for the foreigner, while it will exact seventy-five cents a ton from the citizen.

The Nicaraguan will have free wool and lumber, while the citizen of the United States will pay a tax of from 10 per cent. to \$3.50 a thousand feet. The one will have free and the other taxed agricultural implements. The one will be able to fence his farm with untaxed wire, while the other will be obliged to pay a tax on his fence wire of from 45 to more than 100 per cent.

The Nicaraguans will have untaxed machinery. The people of the United States must continue to pay a bounty to the producers of ore and to the makers of pig and bar iron, on the lumber, on the rivets and nails, and finally on the finished product.

These are a few of the incidents of a treaty by means of which commerce is to be increased through relief granted to the people of foreign countries. The protectionists have based their system on entity to foreign commerce, and their pretended reciprocity treaties bear strong testimony to the fact that they are at last moved by stress of hostile public sentiment to mitigate the results of that entity. Revenue reformers would remove the shackles from commerce by relieving the people of the United States; the reciprocity jugglers shamefacedly confess their defeat by untaxing foreigners.

Failure of the Sugar Bounty.

The "maple sugar vote" in New England is greatly dissatisfied with the workings of the McKinley law. That measure removed the duty on imported sugar, but offered the home producer a bounty as compensation. But the new system does not suit the Vermont owners of maple groves at all. They complain that they are being ruined by the pauper maple sugar of Canada. Congressman Powers drew this alarming picture of the situation in a speech delivered in the house recently.

"The maple sugar production of Vermont is about 15,000,000 pounds. The production of Canada, just across the line, is 20,000,000. But the possibilities of production in Canada are perfectly astounding; 100,000,000 pounds might be produced there, and since this bounty was given to the maple sugar producer there have been ten carloads of maple sugar imported into this country from Canada where before there was but one. It is imported to the city of Chicago and there adulterated, and is sold, as I am told, through the west for Vermont maple sugar."

So desperate is the situation of the Vermonters that Mr. Powers has introduced a bill to restore the old duty and to repeal the bounty. One of his objections to the bounty system is that the rapetax necessary in order to get it compels the producer to lose the early market on maple sugar and forfeit more than two cents a pound if he undertakes to secure the bounty. Mr. Powers declares that "if the old tariff upon sugar were restored, so as to keep foreign sugar out and leave the market to our own product, then our maple sugar producers would be vastly better off than they are now." All of which illustrates again the difficulty of suiting people by any device to put money in their pockets by way of the federal treasury.—New York Evening Post.

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