

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

A POWER GROWN UP IN THE STATE GREATER THAN THE STATE ITSELF.

From the N. Y. Herald. Such was the expression of Governor Palmer, of Illinois, in his message to the Legislature on the 4th of this month. The Governor was referring to the control of the railroad corporations of the State, and in that connection made the above remark, saying, however, that to say the State has not power, acting through the appropriate legislative department as determined by the constitution, to control the management of railroad corporations, is to assert there has grown up a power greater than the State itself. He believes the State has the power to regulate the rates imposed by railroads as common carriers, so as to prevent extortion, oppression, or unjust discrimination against or in favor of localities or individuals, or to investigate their management and prevent the employment of vast sums of money under their control for purposes of corruption. No doubt the separate States have this power over railroads within their limits, and we believe the Federal Government has similar power over the great lines that run through the interior of the country. The clause of the constitution that gives it power to regulate commerce among the several States. These railroad lines are as much the arteries of commerce among the States as the great lakes, the rivers or the sea coast. But what is the use of talking about State Governments controlling the management of railroads? The railroad magnates can buy up almost any of the State Legislatures or Governments. The railroads are really a power greater than the State itself. It is a matter of doubt even whether they cannot control Congress or the Government at Washington as well. The time is coming, and not far off, when the Federal Government will be called upon imperatively by the people to protect them from the exactions and tyranny of the railroad corporations and to control these powerful institutions. Governor Palmer has sounded the note that will awaken attention and opposition to a dangerous and overbearing monopoly.

SPANISH INFLUENCE AT WASHINGTON.

From the N. Y. Sun. The two letters of Secretary Cox which were put in evidence in the late trial of the case of the steamer Florida, seized for an alleged violation of the neutrality laws, are remarkable as showing the glaring contradiction between the professions of the administration and its actions towards the Cuban patriots. Mr. Cox says explicitly to General Darr, the owner of the Florida, that the Government cannot legally and will not stop the shipment from this port, as merchandise, of articles contraband of war, and that it is only against the fitting out of naval or military expeditions that the neutrality laws operate. This is undoubtedly the true doctrine, and it has constantly been acted upon in this port by Spain and France. It matters not what the nature of the merchandise may be—whether it be provisions, or guns, or gunpowder, or clothing, or any other articles useful for military purposes—so long as it is nothing but merchandise, neutrals may lawfully ship it to any belligerent they please, taking, of course, their own risk of its safe delivery to the purchasers. But this being so, how does it happen that every time the Cubans here attempt to send arms and ammunition to their friends in Cuba our Government officiously steps in and seizes their vessels? Here in the Florida, detained in this port for months past, because she was loaded with articles calculated to be of service to the Cuban army. She was not even going to Cuba, but to Vera Cruz, a port in Mexico; and her detention was utterly unjustifiable. There is not a particle of evidence that she was to carry men, or to undertake any naval operations against Spain. The only possible explanation of this exhibition of superserviceable zeal is to be found in the fact that Mr. Sidney Webster—a member of the law firm of Webster & Craig, which has been hired to do the city work in this country of Spanish despotism—is the son-in-law of the Secretary of State, and abuses his relationship to manipulate the machinery of the Government to his own benefit. Then there is the bribe-taker Bancroft Davis also in the State Department, who has been in the scheme with Webster to procure the purchase by the United States of Cuba from Spain, that they may share in the fat commissions which are to be made by the transaction. These are the reasons why Cuba is so unjustly treated by the administration, and why her agents and friends are persecuted with such unremitting malignity.

THE MONOPOLY QUESTION.

From the Chicago Post. The question of monopoly, as presented by the operations of warehouse, railway, and transportation companies, is one of the most important which will come before the General Assembly of Illinois, now in session. It is one in regard to which there are acknowledged difficulties, both theoretical and practical. No subject is so lengthily discussed by Governor Palmer in his message, and there is evidently none to which he has devoted more careful study or more profound reflection. The settlement of the question involves considerations of national law. It involves principles lying at the very foundation of our political system. It touches upon the principles of those great questions which brought war and all its yet worse upon this country, and which are yet settled more by virtue of force than willing agreement. Nor are the practical difficulties less apparent than those which go to the reason of the issue. The immense operations of railway companies, their vast moneyed power, their transactions extending through different States have brought forth new material, new commercial questions, which came directly home to all the people every day. And these new facts make absolutely necessary either the establishment of new legal principles and jurisdiction, or the extension of the application of old principles and jurisdiction to such a degree as fairly to amount to a new system. The plan recommended by the Governor of Illinois for the settlement of this whole question of railway warehouse monopoly is the creation of a Board of Commissioners with full powers in the premises. This plan has been suggested by eminent statesmen who have given the subject their attention, and it is entitled to fair consideration, and perhaps actual trial. This is certain.—That the General Assembly should have no reasonable remedy against the monstrous evils by which the people are afflicted untended. That a board of commissioners, with ample powers to try and settle all questions of the kind, if composed of thoroughly intelligent men of unquestionable integrity, would accomplish great good, perhaps succeed in curing the evils entirely, we may well believe. The proposed plan would receive the most careful consideration from the Legislature, and whether it be adopted or not, something efficacious should be done. Otherwise, it will not be many years till the people, en masse, will practically take hold of the question and settle it by the utter overthrow of every monopoly of the sort under notice.

REPUBLICAN REORGANIZATION.

From the N. Y. Times. There are several very satisfactory statements in Mr. Greeley's address on the occasion of his accepting the chairmanship of the Republican General Committee. He said, for instance, "I cannot afford to be identified with a faction; if I act at all it must be in the interest and with the approval of the entire party." This decision would lead us to suppose that Mr. Greeley will not go on long without finding many things to object to in the course of men like Manierre, Smith, and Andrews, who are receiving the devil's pay, and consequently, it is to be presumed, are doing the devil's work. That sort of hire is seldom given without due service for it being performed. Again, Mr. Greeley gave the following pledge:—"Let me here say frankly that I, for one, shall in no case dispute the authority nor defy the mandate of the State Committee, even though it should direct that I should discontinue this kind of correspondence." An assurance of this kind is only what we have a right to expect from one whose devotion to the Republican party ought not to be questioned, although the wisdom of his judgment may be fairly open

to suspicion, like that of every other public man. The main point to be decided is whether, under present circumstances, men who are in the pay of Tammany are fit to take a leading and responsible part in directing the councils of the Republican party. There was a time, no doubt, when the question was of less importance than it is now. But Tammany, as we know it to-day, has forfeited all claim to be treated as a political organization, in the ordinary interpretation of those words. It is simply a vehicle for obliterating truly popular government, and enlarging the fortunes of half a dozen men. It is identified with fraudulent government, a corrupt judiciary, and a dishonest application of the public money. No one can doubt these facts. They have been admitted freely in Democratic journals, and time aggravates the evils rather than cures them. With Tammany, therefore, no true Republican can possibly have anything in common. If a Republican enters its service, it is because he has been unable to withstand the corrupt influences which an unlimited use of money has placed at the service of Sweeney and his friends. The harder a man works for Tammany, the farther does he place himself outside his own party.

A CRY OF THE INCURABLES.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Few of our public or State charities are more neglected than the asylums for the insane. They are inadequate in number and size, and painfully defective in their organization. The latest reports show that they are frightfully overcrowded, the New York City Asylum, for instance, having more than 1200 patients, though originally built to accommodate but 600. There are only seven of these institutions in the State, of which the one here is the largest, and these are expected to care for over 9000 patients. As now organized, the State asylums are merely hospitals for the cure of the insane. We have in the whole State not a single home for the numerous incurables. After six months, when the insane patients are pronounced incurable, they are, by law, expelled from the asylums, no longer having the legal qualifications for residence. They are returned to their friends, if they happen to have any, or to the counties whence they came, if they are doubly unfortunate in being pauper patients. What happens to them in this event is too horrible to imagine. The great majority are prematurely buried in the "insane departments" of the county workhouses. Here, in damp, dark, unfurnished cells, which are seldom cleansed, without beds, or even straw, to lie upon, the unfortunate are abandoned to die without medical attendance and little care of any kind. In every county work-house in this great and wealthy State, from ten to one hundred and fifty incurables are thus left to perish miserably within the shadow of wealthy churches and the hearing of Christian voices. The Legislature last winter made an appropriation to aid in the building of an additional institution at Middletown, which should be at once a hospital for the cure of the temporarily insane and a home for incurables. The charter was granted to an association of benevolent physicians and laymen, the members of which received shall be subject to that treatment. If successful in their object, these gentlemen will have built and organized the only Homeopathic Asylum for the insane known to exist in the world.

LOW WAGES FOLLOW A LOW TARIFF.

Continually we meet sectional prejudice from our growing sister States of the West, supported by an occasional throb of disapprobation from the reconstructed section that, being agriculturalists and producers of the precious metals, to support a protective tariff is direct opposition to their immediate interests. How vain to speak of sectional interests when everything advantageous to one portion of this glorious Union in so extended a sense is necessarily so of the whole! The makers of great inducement to political leaders of the out to seize on this subject for agitation to further their ends in that it involves questions and principles of which none but the initiated few are at all cognizant. Those governing the balance of trade, supply and demand, capital and labor, as well as the mediums of exchange and legal-tenders. Naturally the plausible side of any question that we do not thoroughly understand is the one we accept when ingeniously presented to us. If foreign manufactures are admitted duty free, the low rates of labor in European markets enable the foreign producers to furnish them at much lower prices than any of our manufacturers can possibly compete with. Of course, the result would be paralyzing of all manufacturing interests at home. The millions now congregated at the great centres in such a case would be compelled to disperse through the rural districts in search of subsistence; and the great markets for grain, beef, etc., would be destroyed. Of course we are told that the foreign market will be open—so it is to-day, so it would be with even higher duties. England, Germany, and France will never be so magnanimous towards this country as to purchase from us articles they do not require, and if they want breadstuffs to-day they will buy them; and thus enable us to preserve the equilibrium of trade. If we were purchasing from them thousands where to-day we buy only hundreds, the balance of trade must necessarily be against us, and that balance is to be continually made up by specie exports.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, ETC.

LEWIS LADOMUS & CO. DIAMOND DEALERS & JEWELERS. WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE. WATCHES AND JEWELRY REPAIRED. 302 Chestnut St., Phila. Would invite attention to their large stock of Ladies' and Gents' Watches of American and foreign make. DIAMONDS IN THE NEWEST styles of Settings. LADIES' AND GENTS' CHAINS, sets of JEWELRY of the latest styles, BAND AND CHAIN IMITATIONS, Etc. Etc. Our stock has been largely increased for the approaching holidays, and new goods received daily. We have on hand the latest designs in great variety, for wedding presents. Repairing done in the best manner and guaranteed. 511 fmsw

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JAMES & HUBER, No. 11 North SECOND Street, Sign of the Golden Lamb, Are receiving a large and splendid assortment of new styles of FANCY CASSIMERES and standard makes of DOBBERNS, CLOTHS and COATINGS. (383 mww) AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. ALEXANDER G. CATTELL & CO. PHOENIX CEMENT MERCHANTS, No. 3 NORTH WABYRE, PHILADELPHIA. ALEXANDER G. CATTELL, BRIDGE GATE

GIRARD ESTATE.

GIRARD ESTATE—IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE twenty-fourth section of the will of Stephen Girard, the President of the Board of Directors of City Trusts and the Superintendent of the Girard Estate have prepared the following:—

Table listing various assets and liabilities of the Girard Estate, including stocks, bonds, and real estate, with corresponding values.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE ESTATE.

Table showing a condensed statement of the affairs of the estate, including stocks and loans, with values and interest rates.

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