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More Albany History.

On January 4, 1905, the Hon. EDGAR TRUMAN BRACKETT, then best known by his intimate personal and political relations with the Hon. B. B. ODELL, Jr., introduced into the State Senate a measure to amend the corporation law of this State by prohibiting campaign contributions by corporations.

The next day ex-Governor B. B. ODELL, Jr., chairman of the Republican State committee, came to this city and gave out an interview which was thus reported in the Tribune of January 6.

I readily agree with that the Brackett bill, I think it is going to affect business so far as I know, the corporations have never contributed to a Republican campaign. If they have I never have seen the money.

Was there a particular stress laid upon the last and most striking sentence in those words lost to the reporter, lost to the public, but not quite lost to the persons for whom it was intended? Does this meaning become more patent when set against the recent interview of Colonel GEORGE W. DUNN, ex-Governor of the State, predecessor as chairman of the State committee and ex-Senator THOMAS C. PLATT's political representative.

As chairman of the committee I received thousands of contributions, and could not say if the bridge companies added to our campaign funds. Nor could I deny it.

In the same month that the Brackett bill was introduced the Hon. ALFRED B. PAGE introduced in the State Senate a measure providing for a legislative investigation of the gas business of New York City.

As a document which seems to have obvious relation to those indicated above we again refer to the declaration made by the Hon. HARVEY D. HIMMAN on May 4, 1905, explaining his vote against the 50 cent gas bill.

I have been informed on testimony as trustworthy as that of my own father that this bill was introduced to punish a gas corporation which had declined to put its contribution in the hands of one leader as opposed to another at the last campaign.

The author of the testimony "as trustworthy as that of my own father" was identified at the time as Colonel GEORGE W. DUNN, who was at that moment pressing the Senate lobby. The remaining details have not yet been made public by Senator HIMMAN, but we believe they will be in the near future.

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pour le Mariti agricole: above all it permits the Sultan to go wherever he will, except that he must ask permission before returning to Grand Comoro. The first use SAID ALI made of this permission was to visit Paris and ask M. FALLIERES to see that his pension was paid punctually.

The Comoro islands lie to the northwest of Madagascar, within easy reach of the mainland of Africa and the southern boundary of German East Africa.

Zanzibar to the north in British hands and the Comoros to the south in French; limits to German colonial expansion in East Africa, and WILHELM II, would possess his soul in peace.

The Victor Hugo Legend. In the current number of the Fortnightly Review Mr. FRANCIS GRIBBLE is worse than unphilosophical. In his treatment of VICTOR HUGO's known weaknesses this critic displays something like personal hatred or execration. This leads him, when discussing the methods by which that colossal egotism gradually built up for public contemplation a majestic ideal of VICTOR HUGO, to attribute to the poet a conscious art or artfulness and a deliberate, cold blooded mendacity.

Mr. PARKER'S Glorious Repentance. The Hon. RICHARD WAYNE PARKER of the Seventh New Jersey district, a member of the Committee on Military Affairs, did an unusually courageous thing in the House on Friday last, and because of its character the incident should not go unnoticed.

The name of a charged battery a century old ought not to be changed without the best of reasons; indeed, we are disposed to assert that it ought not to be changed under any circumstances. Nothing could have been more absurd than the attempt a few years ago to change the name of Spook on Long Island to Rensselaer.

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his proximity became known to the charming creature. His imagination pictured her throwing herself at his feet in the compartment and grasping his knees in a frenzy of admiration and gratitude. Then it seemed to him that it might be better if she merely took his hat from the rack, kissed it, and quietly wept. This would be a new form of homage, not at all conventional and well adapted to literary use.

Nevertheless we admit that the weight and oppression of the awe with which some of our fellow countrymen and countrywomen approach the shrine in the Place des Vosges, under COOK'S guidance or otherwise, might be mitigated in advance by a judicious course of Gribble.

A provision of the army appropriation bill to retire five Brigadier-Generals with the rank and pay of Major-General, following a precedent by which some other officers profited, was before the House. It had a good deal of support, sentiment of the conventional patriotic order being strong for it.

The old charter of Sandy Hill contains much that is interesting to the student of social history. The trustees of the village were authorized to regulate and determine the time and places of bathing and swimming in the Hudson River.

Mr. PARKER was reminded that he had voted for a similar measure, the act of March, 1907, and he was taxed with inconsistency. Mr. SELZNER—Why does the gentleman vote against an identical provision in this bill?

Upon the merits of the question there may be a difference of opinion. Discrimination must be admitted, and bills creating special rank for army officers with additional pay are often backed by recommendations solicited by influential friends, if not by the officers themselves.

At the same time, the officers for whom preferment was asked on this occasion had served their country well. That being said, we claim for the Hon. RICHARD WAYNE PARKER the distinction of standing for principle as he saw it and admitting an error of judgment that exposed him to a charge few public men care to face.

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President sent to the Senate among the nominations of postmasters the name of JOHN DWYER for postmaster at Hudson Falls. Mr. DWYER is the present postmaster at Sandy Hill. As yet there is no such village as Hudson Falls. The people of Sandy Hill are to vote upon the proposed change of name on March 15.

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SECRETARY WILSON ON FARM PRICES. WASHINGTON, March 2.—Secretary Wilson is reported as having told the Senate committee now engaged in investigating the increased cost of foodstuffs that "there has been no substantial change in the food produced during the last ten years." If such a statement were made it is contradicted by the official records of the Department of which Mr. Wilson is the esteemed and efficient chief.

The year book of the Department of Agriculture for 1908 shows the average farm price of corn on December 1 of that year as 60.6 cents a bushel and the average December 1 price for the period 1900-1905 as 37.1 cents. On the same date in 1909 shows an advance from 48.1 cents to 52.8 cents, oats from 28.1 cents to 47.2 cents, barley from 41.2 cents to 55.4 cents, rye from 32.5 cents to 73.6 cents, and potatoes from 19.9 cents to 70.6 cents.

Tables similar to those from which the foregoing figures are taken show an advance of about 70 per cent in the price of tobacco in ten years and about 50 per cent in the price of raw cotton. This may not be what Mr. Wilson regards as a "substantial change" in farm prices, but his view will not be endorsed by those who pay.

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THE CONSULAR SERVICE. WASHINGTON, March 2.—The American consular service is no longer a medium for the payment of political debts. Under the present system entrance and promotion depend almost entirely upon fitness and merit. As a result the average of the personnel is much higher than it was a few years ago, and there has been a corresponding gain in efficiency.

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SMALL THERE BE AN INCOME TAX? The Discussion Revived by Senator Root's Appearance as Its Champion. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The brilliant professional career and the distinguished public services of Senator Root weigh in and settle to respectful consideration anything said by him upon questions either of law or of governmental policy, but even his ability cannot avail in the case of the proposed income tax amendment, unless the argument against it is so made that the worse appear the better.

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