



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS NEUTRAL IN NONE"

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PROSPERITY AND PLENTY!

The Hon. John J. Mitchell Says that the Hard Times Have Left Us.

The Distinguished President of the Great Illinois Trust and Savings Bank Speaks Wisely.

For He Is the Mouthpiece of Chicago's Solidest and Best of Old Citizens.

The Rising Tide of Better Times, the Banker Asserts, Is Happily Here to Stay.

"There is no doubt, in my judgment," said John J. Mitchell, president of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, "that we are just entering upon several years of good times—not speculative prosperity, but solid, substantial prosperity."

This is Mr. Mitchell's judgment after several months of observation in the East, fortified by what he has heard and seen in Chicago since his return.

Mr. Mitchell left the bank a sick man early in May. About one month later he went to Manchester-by-the-Sea to regain his health. As soon as strength returned he paid many visits to Boston, and later was in New York. He talks as one who has had his fingers close to the pulse of trade.

"I can speak more particularly of Boston," Mr. Mitchell continued, "because I saw more of that city, but I spent some time in New York on the way home and heard a good deal there of the improving conditions.

"The East has felt the return of good times more perceptibly than we have out here, for the reason that Eastern people are heavy holders of far Western securities. The improvement in the demand for and the value of all securities has been marked, more especially of the far Western properties. This improvement has been in the intrinsic value of securities, as well as in their market value. All manner of securities were hard hit by the conditions which have oppressed the country and that affected the East. Then there were many properties which were so affected by the hard times that they had to go through the process of reorganization. I might mention Union Pacific, Northern Pacific and Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe as illustrations of what I mean. The decline in such properties was felt most severely in Boston, I believe. As one Boston man said to me: 'If it had not been for Bell Telephone and Calumet and Hecla this town of ours would have been bankrupt. Those properties have shown a remarkable advance, also, and the improvement has been general.'

"As I said before, the improvement in the East is the more marked because the East holds so much of far Western securities, and the beginning of this improvement in trade and business conditions lies in the far West. The farmer is at the bottom of it all. As a rule these advances in securities do not come until the farmer has sold what he has, and he, therefore, derives very little benefit. This time the advances came before the farmer had sold, and before his product was ready to be sold. Hence he has reaped the primary benefit. As a consequence interest charges, long in arrears, are being paid up, mortgages are being lifted, and the country generally is getting on a firmer footing. The improvement in railroad stocks is especially marked, and the companies are all showing good earning capacity.

"In New York I found everybody was cheerful and confident that the future would fulfill every promise of the present. The demand for money there is not so strong, and the interest rates are not quite so high as had been expected, but there is no complaint. There is a better tone in every line of business, more confidence and a feeling of security and stability.

"There is a general expectation in the East that we are going to get large quantities of British gold. The London financial papers are trying to convey the impression that the advance in American securities is accidental or speculative merely, and that Englishmen should let them alone.

"Their purpose obviously is to keep their gold at home. But that sort of talk cannot last long with no founda-

tion under it. It is usually the case that foreigners do not become buyers of American securities until the cream of the market has been skimmed, but they certainly are about to become heavy buyers. This fact, taken in conjunction with the further fact that the balance of trade is so heavily in our favor, makes it certain that great quantities of gold are coming to us from London.

"Here in Chicago I find that everybody is cheerful. This city seemed to suffer more from hard times than most any other place in the country. The World's Fair harmed us in that respect. While we had that on our hands, you see, we were working under high pressure, and the reaction had to come. For the last three or four years we have been dragging on the bottom.

"But there is a different feeling here now. The tone of business men with whom I have talked is decidedly cheerful. I am told that sales during the recent rush of trade among the wholesalers have run higher than for many years and a good deal higher. We are on the upward slope of the wave. Real estate is always hit hard by a period of depression, and it is usually the last to respond, but it is coming sure.

"We are just entering upon several years of good times. I am confident of it, and confident that it will not be of the speculative, ephemeral character which a few seem to fear. The improvement is solid and substantial."

The reason the Republicans of the Twelfth Ward will not nominate Mr. Charles T. Warden, of 338 South Leavitt street, for Alderman, is simply because he is too honest and independent to suit them. They know Warden cannot be induced to wear anybody's collar but his own.

Just let the Democrats nominate "Bob" Lindblom, the prominent Swede, in the Sixth Congressional District, and then watch them land in the consummation.

Hon. John J. Philbin's friends are legion throughout the Sixth Congressional District, and the whole North Side. John may accept the Sixth District Democratic Congressional nomination. If he does, he will come pretty near winning. Mr. Philbin and his charming wife would enjoy Washington society, and they would receive a warm welcome, socially, from the good people at Washington, D. C.

Hon. Z. P. Brossard says he doesn't want to go to Congress, but he would make a strong candidate, just the same.

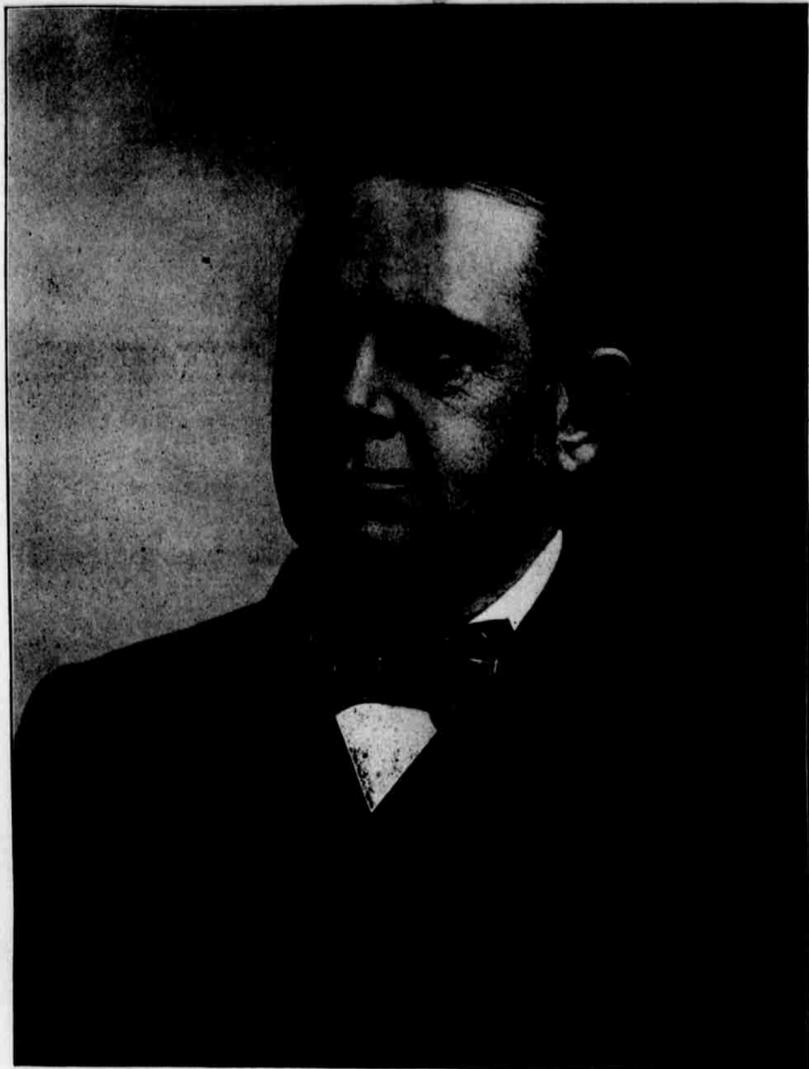
That was a regular-will-o'-the-wisp Nick Maglio was after last spring in the Seventeenth Ward.

"Maurice O'Connor will now wish he hadn't returned from Ireland," so spake a prominent Democrat after the Seventeenth Ward election contest, which wound up Wednesday night, the recount having shown that Hon. James Walsh had snored Revere under by a safe and comfortable majority.

At the recount Wednesday evening one of Revere's henchmen said: "Well! Steve never did count much on a seat in the Council. So what the h—, Bill?"

What! McAndrews for chairman of the County Central Committee this fall? And West Town Assessor next spring? He doesn't want much, does he?

City Electrician Ellicott is at work on estimates of the cost of equipping the city pumping stations with electric-



HON. MARCUS A. HANNA.

The Distinguished National Leader, Who Is the Guest of Chicago Republicans This Week.

light plants for street-lighting purposes. This idea has been under consideration by Comptroller Waller for some time, the intention being to use the power now wasted at the pumping stations. Commissioner McGann has ordered the 14th street electric-light engines to be connected with the boilers attached to the pumping engines.

The Chicago City Telephone Company has just completed the extension of its party line, or private residence telephone system, to the entire South Side, North Side and other residence portions of the city.

This system was first experimented with about two years ago, and has proved so successful that it has now been put into use in nearly all parts of the town that are considered to be desirable for residence purposes. The system consists of the bunching of four instruments on one circuit, bringing in to use only one pair of wires and at the same time obtaining a satisfactory and cheap service.

For 16 cents a day one of the subscribers on this line may connect with 14,000 homes in the city and call up friends in a territory twenty-four miles long and seven miles wide.

Hon. Edward Muehlehofer will be the next Alderman from the Twenty-second Ward.

It is said that Hon. Fred A. Busse desires to succeed Hon. D. H. Koehersperger as County Treasurer. So does Charles W. Peters, Sheriff Pease's chief clerk.

Regarding an amendment of the primary election law, Senator W. E. Mason said, when spoken to on the matter:

"I consider an amendment to the primary election law as important to the Republican party and to the people in general as the apportionment bill. The Republicans are fair and are willing to take defeat at the primary if they are fairly beaten, but it has got so that in some parts of this city the Republicans do not go to the primary because they feel that their votes are not counted. Every primary election should be conducted under the law, and the man who illegally votes at a primary ought to be punished the same as the man who illegally votes at the general election.

"In the first place, both of the counting delegations should have a part of the judges and a part of the clerks,

No man ought to sit in judgment on his own case, therefore no primary judge should be allowed to be elected as a delegate at the primary where he is acting as judge. The ticket should be prepared by the voter in a booth, as they are at a general election, and no man should be permitted to stand about the polls soliciting or running in voters. I cannot now mention all of the necessary changes, but we have a Republican Legislature and a Republican Governor. If we could establish the same confidence of the people in the primary election that we have in our general election the better would be heard of no more, and we would get all the majorities wherever on a fair party count we are entitled to it."

The rumor that the officials of the North and West Chicago Street Railroads were backing "Bennie" Mitchell's candidacy for alderman from the Thirteenth Ward is not generally believed.

The Chicago Record created lots of amusement in the Thirteenth Ward when it trotted "Bennie" Mitchell out for Alderman.

Mr. James J. Casey is prominently mentioned for Congress in the Sixth District. Mr. Casey is brainy and popular. He would make his mark in Congress.

Commissioner McGann has let a contract for 46,137 tons of cast iron water pipe at a cost of something over \$600,000. The South Chicago pipe works and the Addyston Pipe and Steel Company were the lowest bidders and the contract was divided between them as follows:

Dimensions.	Tons.	Price, ton.
South Chicago pipe works—		
Six-inch	1,290	\$16.80
Eight-inch	832	16.80
Twelve-inch	214	16.80
Addyston Pipe and Steel Company—		
Sixteen-inch	2,515	16.03
Twenty-four-inch	3,603	16.03
Thirty-inch	3,257	16.03
Thirty-six-inch	22,572	16.03
Forty-eight-inch	547	16.03

Mayor Harrison says: "I am not going to Nashville because of any pronouncement it may give me in any way." Well, there is no objection to this declaration, but when is the Mayor going to give Chicago business a little personal attention? There is that Illinois Central land grabbing, for instance,

which needs a strong hand of restraint just at this moment. The Harrison omelette should be kept clear of any Illinois Central taint.

"Blind Pig" Frank I. Bennett and all the little Bennetts are still trying to make themselves notorious.

"Blind Pig" Bennett tackled the wrong man when he ran up against Captain Wm. W. Howe. Captain Howe took a reef out of Bennett's sails in short order.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of the Hon. John Coughlin to put the Hon. John Powers into the hot room.

Can it be possible that henceforth in discussing the City Council we shall have to speak of him as the Powers that was?

Tammany's present candidate for Mayor of Greater New York attended a French ball in Gotham a few years ago and entered into the spirit of the occasion so thoroughly—or vice versa—that he ended his performance in a cell at the police station. It would be extremely unwise, however, to bring out that fact in the campaign. Tammany looks upon an arrest for disorderly conduct as an indorsement and recommendation.

Gov. Tanner has called a special election in the Sixth Congressional District for Nov. 23 next to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Cooke. This action is in accordance with the expectation of those interested in politics. The Republican organization has practically decided to give its support to H. S. Bontell, an eloquent and able lawyer of high personal standing, who is said to have agreed to run.

The Democrats seem determined to force the silver issue, and Samuel E. Darby is favored by many as a candidate.

Chicago has been so grossly misused by the rest of the State in the matter of taxation in previous years that, perhaps, she should be thankful for the slight concession this year made by the State Board of Equalization.

The best business men in Chicago are unanimous in their opinion that Hon. D. H. Koehersperger would make a splendid sheriff of Cook County.

PULLMAN'S LATEST STEAL!

It Robs Chicago of Water Upon One Hand and Poor People on the Other.

The School Fund Is Depleted that the Magnate's Earnings May Be Very Large.

The City Fire Department Money Is Thrown Into His Lap with Great Ease.

In Fact the Oppressor of Labor Has an Easy Time Robbing Chicago Taxpayers.

George M. Pullman's model town of Pullman cleared \$2,000 last year for its owner in the matter of taxes alone.

There are not many taxpayers in Chicago who receive in actual cash from the city government more money than they pay in taxes, save of course they who labor for the city. George M. Pullman, with his model town, does that in a most successful manner. Last year he cleared in the neighborhood of \$2,000 in his dealings with the various governments. This year and the next, owing to the efforts of a Democratic city administration for a proper readjustment, his gain will not be near so satisfactory to him, if it amounts to anything at all.

During the great Pullman railroad strike of 1894 the charge was made in a general way that the Pullman company received more in cash from the city government than it paid in taxes. This statement is now substantiated by the figures on the books of the County Treasurer, who keeps a record of taxes paid, and the accounts of the city of Chicago showing what is paid out. The following statement shows what Pullman pays in taxes, or paid in 1896:

General taxes	\$30,400.67
Water taxes—city	18,505.80
Total	\$48,906.47

It must be borne in mind that this is not alone for city taxes, but includes State, county, park, school, library and all general taxes.

The following table shows what the Pullman company receives annually, taking 1896 as a basis, for such things as the municipality cannot itself supply because of the exclusion of all outsiders from the precincts of the model town:

Police service	\$10,000
Fire department and lighting	8,640
Schools (teachers)	18,450
Schools (engineers and janitors)	2,818
Schools (gas, evening)	220
Schools (rental and heating)	9,580
Schools (repairs)	700
Total	\$59,008

A recapitulation of these figures gives the following interesting result: Pullman pays \$48,906.47 Pullman receives 59,008.00 Pullman makes 1,011.51

In addition to this the Pullman company makes a clear profit of several thousand dollars on its water plant, the water for which is supplied by the city of Chicago. Besides the cash profit, all Pullman corporations controlled by the Pullman company pay nothing whatever for water.

That this will not be possible in future is the result of an investigation made during the past two weeks by L. E. McGann, Mayor Harrison's Commissioner of Public Works. The city's water contract with the model town was explained and Commissioner McGann immediately set out to effect a reform. He found the Pullman company buying water from the city at a rate of 4 cents per 1,000 gallons and selling it to corporations not under the Pullman wing at 10 cents per 1,000 gallons, and to private families in Pullman at an even higher rate. He also found that the contract could be cancelled upon sixty days' notice. The necessary notice was immediately given and in less than sixty days from the present date the model town will be paying what other corporations and manufacturing concerns pay, that is, 10 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Another result of the first presentation of acts regarding the municipality and the town of Pullman was seen during the past week. Upon a request from Commissioner McGann, Corporation Counsel Thornton rendered an opinion

in which he holds that the streets in the model town, which have never been formally dedicated and which have been held to belong to the Pullman company, are the property of the city of Chicago and the city has complete jurisdiction over them, as over all thoroughfares within the city limits.

This opinion, when it is backed up by a decision of the courts, in the event of a fight by the Pullman company, has a deep significance. It means, first, that there may be relief from the excessive water and light charges of the Pullman companies to the tenants of their houses in the model town. The city will have a right to grant a franchise to another gas company to use the streets for its mains and compete with the Pullman Gas Company in selling a commodity to the people of the town. It means also that a street railway line can be given authority to use the streets of the town, and it means that the city can put its own water plant and mains in the town and stop the system of robbery for the supply of water furnished families in the town.

As a matter of fact, the Thornton opinion is the opening wedge to make way for the same privileges, the same benefits and protection to the people of the model town that are furnished to the residents and taxpayers of Chicago. It may mean also the first step in the complete wiping out of the model town as an institution and the control of the territory by the taxpayers rather than by the Pullman corporations.

But there are other things to come. The School Board's leases and contracts with the Pullman corporations are food for thought for the city officials, now that they are started on the right track and determined to accomplish a little reform in the dealings of the model town with the general municipality. The contracts of the Pullman company with the fire department furnish more material along the same line. This is all outside of the question of assessments and taxation, which must be handled by the assessors, the county board of review and the State Board of Equalization, and which was recently the subject of an exhaustive open letter from the Taxpayers' Defense League, and which has as yet brought no reply from President Pullman or any of his associates.

President Holbrook of the Taxpayers' Defense League in his letter made the broad statement that on account of the heavy expenditures of the city, county and State during the Pullman strike the Pullman companies had cost the Government more than had ever been paid in taxes by the Pullman corporations or would be paid in the next ten years.

In view of the fact that the Pullman corporations make a gain every year on account of contracts with the city government this statement can hardly be questioned. At the present rate the end of ten years will see many hundreds of thousands of dollars credited to the accounts of the Pullman stockholders as profits from dealings with the city of Chicago.

Pullman residents pay just 125 per cent more for their gas for lighting and heating purposes than do the residents of any other section of Chicago. Dollar gas is a reality in Chicago. And out in Pullman \$2.25 gas is also a reality. And it is a case there of using gas at \$2.25 per thousand feet or using coal oil and candles, usually bought from the Pullman stores at prices that are higher than those paid in the city for the same articles.

The Pullman gas plant is probably the oldest and least valuable institution in the model town, and in no sense compares with any gas plant in the city of Chicago or any of its suburbs.