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"The Last of the Druids," the story which won The Tribune prize of \$25 in yesterday's contest, will be printed in next Saturday's Tribune.

A Suggestion. A poll by the Record of the leading citizens of Wilkes-Barre as to whether they favor or oppose the surrender of that city's present charter, in order that the municipality may become a third-class one under the general act, discloses, in point of numbers, a division of sentiment; but if the gentlemen interviewed by the Record be classified as to their familiarity with municipal government and definite knowledge of the points at issue, opponents of a change would win an easy decision.

Of the twenty-one men whose opinions are expressed, thirteen oppose a change, seven favor it and one is on the fence. Of the seven who favor a change, Judge Rhone is the only one whose opinion would carry weight among students of municipal problems; and his main reason, in the light of Scranton's experiences with a third-class charter, appears decidedly humorous. He wants a large council in order to secure public equivalents for the bestowal of public franchises, his idea apparently being that a Traction company in search of a franchise would be powerless to arrive at its own terms with a municipal legislature comprising seven as many members as are now in the Wilkes-Barre council. It might be well for the judge to make a somewhat closer study of the third-class charter in practical operation before leaning too heavily on this hallucination.

Of course an aroused community dominated by the best citizens can have good government under almost any conceivable system; but the fact remains that where municipal affairs are at a normal level it is far better to have a system compactly fitted to the needs of the community than to have one which requires the community to be in many respects fitted to the system. The ideal form of city government for communities like Wilkes-Barre would have a single council, two-thirds of the members of which should represent the city's various wards and the other third be elected at large. The mayor would have absolute power over the municipal departments, save as to finances and accounts, and would exercise the right of veto covering both entire ordinances and separate items or provisions; and a two-thirds vote would be required to nullify that veto. This would put the responsibility where it could be seen and felt; and if under such a simple system the people should fail to receive satisfactory government, they would at least possess the consolation of knowing that they themselves were to blame.

Why doesn't Wilkes-Barre try to get a charter like that? Indiscriminate abuse of legislatures is a very deplorable thing, and it is therefore doubly unfortunate when legislatures like that now in session at Harrisburg do so much to invite and to justify it.

Growing Tiresome. The appended excerpt from the Pittsburg Dispatch of recent date is a fair sample of the tommy rot which is nowadays much too habitually foisted upon the unselected readers of American newspapers:

English iron masters have become so alarmed at the wonderful progress made by the Carnegie Steel company and other Pittsburgh steel firms that they are making a desperate attempt to obtain control of the improved machinery now in use here. Six English expert iron manufacturers, representing unlimited London capital, have just completed a tour of investigation in this country, the most of the time being spent in Pittsburgh. An effort was made to buy one of the Carnegies' most valuable patents, and negotiations are now pending for the English rights, so far they have been thwarted.

Bear in mind that the foregoing is only a mouthful, as it were, of the gush in question. There was a column of it altogether, with real facts introduced simply when available and convenient. The purport of the publication may be given in one other illustration, which, as we suspect, lets us into the secret of its inflation upon a defenceless people. "The Englishmen," says the Dispatch, "were attracted to this country by the enormous increase in the exports of iron and steel by American, and especially Pittsburgh, firms. They viewed with considerable alarm the rapid advancement made in improved machinery by the Carnegie Steel company, and saw that unless something could be done quickly the Americans could easily outdo them in their own market."

Now it would give us great joy to be able to place implicit belief in all this; to be able to take comfort in the fact that the pioneer makers of steel in Europe had been so far left in the rear by American industrial and inventive genius—and especially by the fabulous wealth and shrewd and overmastering Carnegie company—that their utter extinction before the inroads of Yankee competition—that is to say, Carnegie competition—is merely a trivial question of time. Such a prospect would cheer our Americanism, enthrone our mind and set the tired pulses to leaping in glee.

Unhappily the cold facts tell a different story. They inform us that despite their persistent bragadoocio the Carnegie people are not at present doing any too much business right here at home, let alone being able to pay freight to Liverpool and paralyze the festive Briton in his den. We, of

course, wish they were; we should be glad to see them gobble in the iron and steel trade of the whole universe if thereby the profits could be transferred to American shores. But bluff is one thing and truth is another, and between the two we should like to have the latter get an occasional run for its money.

Apparently the anti-combiners of Philadelphia don't want a restoration of harmony in the Republican party. Well, if it exist throughout the state, it will not make so much difference what kind of a time they have in Philadelphia.

Points in Ethics. It is alleged, without specification of names, that on the day prior to the publication of the senate version of the Dingley bill three senators conducted through a broker in Washington, a speculation in sugar stock that after the publication of the sugar schedule netted them \$30,000. The incident involves a question in the ethics of office holding which is of interest.

If these senators, assuming the report to be true, had any hand in framing the sugar schedule in committee and then used their knowledge for personal gain, their guilt would require very little explanation. While it might not be possible to prove that they so adjusted the schedule as to open an opportunity for successful speculation, the coincidence between the two parts of the transaction would be such as to put the senators in immediate condemnation before the bar of honest public opinion.

But a more subtle point is disclosed if we assume, for sake of argument, that the senators in hand were in no degree instrumental in preparing the sugar schedule, but simply speculated in the sugar securities as any other man in the habit of speculating would be likely to do upon the receipt of valuable information prior to its general diffusion. Would such conduct be more censurable on the part of a man holding public office than on the part of a private citizen? The importance of a determination of this point will appear when the fact is duly considered that, if report be true, "trading on tips" is a practice of somewhat ample proportions among men in official position. We all know how a recent occupant of the presidential chair, after eight years of office-holding during which time his aggregate official income did not exceed \$400,000, retired worth by popular estimation \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000, although at the time of his first election he was reputed to be a poor man. Of course it will not be said, either by Mr. Cleveland or of any other man who has held exalted position in our government, that he could be tempted for personal profit by means to persons anxious to buy such means to influence his official actions; yet it is equally true that opportunities for rapid enrichment more frequently beset senators and presidents than occur to those same men after the expiration of their terms of office; and it is a proper subject for public discussion whether the best results in government would not follow the enforcement of a rule absolutely forbidding servants of the United States to speculate in stocks likely to be affected by their official duties.

A rule of this kind, even though put into stringent law, would be powerless in the absence of a firm moral tone in public opinion. So long as defenses are almost universally paid to wealth regardless of the methods of its acquisition, there need be little expectation of improvement in the average morale of men in official life. Controller Lloyd, of Luzerne, believing that the county is paying more than is necessary for the maintenance of its prisoners in the county jail, refuses to approve the warden's bill. In other words, Controller Lloyd considers that his individual opinion is final on the subject of county expense. Two or three battles in the courts may slightly modify his ideas.

The Outlook for Bimetallism. Superficially it may appear that the departure of a commission with authority from congress and President McKinley to negotiate with the principal governments of Europe for another international monetary conference is a begging of the question. Very naturally the extreme silver men and the extreme gold men both assert that it is. The one class accuse the administration of cowardice in hanging upon Europe's coat-tails when we ought to think, to act "without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation"; and the other class, with equal narrowness, denigrate the president a trimmer, disposed to play with the financial honor and credit of the country for political effect.

That there is insincerity in the president's action in this respect may well be doubted when we reflect that he is simply in line with the traditional policy of his party as outlined in numerous state and national platforms and as endorsed in congress and on the stump by its recognized leaders ever since specie resumption. But for these pledges of conservative effort in the direction of bimetallism, made in the last national canvass in behalf of the Republican candidate, it is easy to believe that thousands of voters who, as it was, voted for McKinley, would have chanced the more radical and hazardous programme represented by the candidacy of Bryan. At any event, the president cannot fairly be criticized for carrying out a promise to whose execution he was solemnly and publicly committed. Whether that promise was wise or unwise, it was openly made and cannot without treachery be ignored.

As to whether this overture for international concert in the re-establishment of bimetallism will or will not be successful, it is to be noticed that prophecy is largely governed by desire. The extreme gold advocates scout it as the veriest nonsense, yet appear, nevertheless, to be greatly disturbed by the fact that it is to be made. On the other hand, the ultra silverites, while also trying to ridicule the move, take pains to assert that it is their voting strength which has forced it, so that if the overture should succeed, they will be in a position to appropriate the

credit. It is clear, we think, from these things that there is at least a chance for the assemblage of another conference, but how large a one must be left to individual conjecture. The main point, after all, is that the Republican party is keeping its word.

The New York Evening Post is gradually working up a rudge against McKinley because he does not dissolve the senate, defy the leaders of his party and set up a dynasty of his own. Evidently there is no place short of heaven wherein the Evening Post could be held happy for any considerable length of time.

Attempts to stampede Governor Black, of New York, by newspaper clamor supplemented by Mugwump oratory and Superior Persons' advice do not succeed worth a cent. It is refreshing to see a governor with modest bearing but adamant back bone.

Perhaps if England had spent less money on military defences along the Canadian frontier and at other points in the vicinage of the United States her overture for an arbitration compact with us would have been more successful.

Evidently the Sultan of Turkey can smirk and smile and be a villain still.

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, May 11. Chairman Dingley, of the committee on ways and means, has been exceedingly discreet in his verbal utterances, to the representatives of the press, of opinion upon the senate version of the tariff, but he is just beginning to find out that he has been officiously free in his criticisms in the Journal, a paper owned and edited by him, and published at Lewiston, Maine. It may be said that Mr. Dingley cannot write all the "editorials" for his paper while attending to his duties in Washington, but no one in congress or out of it here will believe that the distinguished chairman would permit any wicked partner, or any building syndicate, for editorial honors fresh from the pine forests, to print one word in relation to the senate bill contrary to the convictions of Mr. Dingley. When he writes these things he writes them by mail or telegraph, or whether they are written by another, they are accepted here as the oral utterances of the chief of ways and means, though they be guarded with care, and expressive of the mildest form only of the emotions that have been going on since his great measure has been going through the threshing machine of the subcommittee of the committee on finance.

These utterances have brought more than a little trouble to the soul of Mr. Dingley. Friends of the senate measure, and senators who merely gainfully obtain between the two bodies of congress, are hauling Dingley over the coals for his significant utterances. In one article he thrust under his eyes by his critics he says sneeringly that the bill had to be modified to suit the Peopulists, Senator Jones, before it could be reported as Mr. Dingley, and as good a Republican in everything except his view of the silver problem, this is thought to be a rather equal and distasteful outburst. When he was called to account for it by a senator, Mr. Dingley took refuge behind the impersonality of newspaper "editorials," but would not entirely disclaim responsibility. In the article referred to Mr. Dingley also speaks of "the vocal senate," to make more forcible the difference of that body from the body of which Mr. Dingley is a member. "Vocal" is a very strong expression for so mild a man as Dingley.

But Mr. Dingley does not seem to have been disciplined by the criticisms of his first cautious words about the senate bill. The latest number of his paper to reach this city has raised a veritable tempest. Only a few copies are taken here, but few are enough. They are shown and read by the entire senate, and are widening rapidly the breach between the two bodies which was already as wide as that between the Lords and Commons. In the latest article Mr. Dingley starts out with the sentence: "It is said that President McKinley is much disappointed over the senate committee's tariff bill. Senators ask who the 'it' who has 'said' such a thing for President McKinley, who is known to have absolutely refused to say any word that would seem to be an interference with the right of congress to decide tariff matters according to its own wisdom.

The most remarkable utterance of Mr. Dingley's paper, however, is the following and it has caused animated retorts from members of the committee on finance, and from senators generally on the Republican side: "It is learned that the Republican senators have already outlined, in a general way, the plan which they will follow in passing the bill, and that plan contemplates its adoption by the house without reference to a conference committee. The bill will be called up for consideration on the 18th instant, and by beginning the daily sessions at an early hour and continuing them at night, it will aim to complete the consideration of the bill, if possible, before the end of the fiscal year. The bill will then be sent to the house, and if a committee of conference is asked, the senate will decline to appoint one, and the house will thus be forced to the necessity of accepting the senate bill or prolonging the contest indefinitely, with the possibility of having no bill at all. If such an exigency should arise, we should again be confronted with the question of the right of the balance of the government, but also to defeat the will of the people as plainly expressed last November."

Following this is the assertion that the bill is drafted on British revenue lines, that it was dictated by local interests, and that "the sugar trust is in powerful evidence in the sugar schedules." Again, "if the senate sugar schedule should become a law the profits of the sugar trust, which, under the Wilson-Dormax bill, have been enormous, would be doubled." This is regarded here as the most remarkable utterance that ever emanated from a member of the finance committee of one body of congress in regard to the action of the finance committee of the other body. In this case it is the chairman of the finance committee of the house, and it is fairly assumed that through his paper he speaks after consultation with his colleagues, and that his opinion is the opinion of the Republican membership of ways and means. It is inevitable that such utterances, assumed to be with the knowledge not only of Chairman Dingley, but also of the Republicans of ways and means, must make trouble. A senator who always knows what is in contemplation tells me today that nothing ever said by members of one house in regard to the character or performances of the other house has created a feeling which compares in bitterness to that which has been aroused by the extraordinary language of Mr. Dingley. This senator declares that at the proper time he will call attention to the matter. The balance, however, that senators other than Republican will call attention to it at an improper time.

Clerk of the House McDowell was relating to a group of congressmen the other day his experience as a newspaper editor in order to show that men are

not always making as much noise in the world as they think they are. "I had purchased a weekly paper in Franklin, Pa.," said the major, "and was laboring under the impression that I was moving the public opinion of the whole northwest section of Pennsylvania, besides sending my name echoing down the corridors of time with a regular boom. But my name printed at the head of the editorial page in large type, also in several other places in the paper where it was likely to meet the reader's eye. Coupled with my name was the statement that I was 'Editor and Proprietor.'"

"Nothing occurred to disturb my dream of greatness or disabuse my mind of the idea that few men were as well known in that section of country as I was until one day a farmer constituent came in to renew his subscription. After paying his \$2 a year the farmer turned to me and said, 'Who's a-runnin' of this paper, anyhow?'" "Why, I am," I answered, pointing with great pride to my name at the head of the editorial column." "Great Scott! you don't say so! Why, I thought that John Burke was still a-runnin' of it." As Burke had been dead for four years, my opinion was one of my principal subscribers who had recognized no change in the paper in that time. I concluded that I had not made the impress on journalism that I should have made. I sold the paper next week and went into politics."

THE NEATEST AND BEST. From the Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer. We compliment the Scranton Tribune on putting out one of the neatest printed and typographically the most presentable journal printed in that city of excellent newspapers. It is in every way a credit to the management.

SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. From the Springfield Republican. The Union generals in our civil war did not completely denude, or attempt to denude, the farming regions of the south of their non-combatant inhabitants and their property seized by invading armies, but even then the modern practice is to drive them into some fortified northern city. Non-combatants are liable to have their property seized by invading armies, but even then the modern practice is to drive them into some fortified northern city. Non-combatants are liable to have their property seized by invading armies, but even then the modern practice is to drive them into some fortified northern city.

CUBAN WAR NEWS. From the Philadelphia Ledger. When General Weyler sends dispatches declaring that a province has been pacified, he means that he has made it impossible for the people to live in their homes or cultivate the fields, and that he has gathered the women and children in the towns, where they are starving to death. When the insurgents send news of a victory, they mean that a small band has made a successful raid into one of the "sacred" provinces, and beaten some isolated band of Spanish troops.

NEEDS RECONSTRUCTION. From the Wilkes-Barre Record. A short time ago the street commission of Scranton was charged with offenses of a scandalous and corrupt nature. Now the chief of the fire department is accused of offering bribes to city councilmen in the interest of one of the candidates for city collector. It looks very much as if Scranton was sadly in need of a reconstructed municipal government.

OF COURSE IT IS. From the Washington Star. The United States is still an advocate of arbitration as against war in every case where arbitration is consistent with self-respect and good government.

JACK'S LETTER TO BOB. (David Skatts Wester, in the Lotus.) Dear Bob: I am going to be married. But before saying more, I must write about something which weighs on my conscience.

Of course, you remember that night in the carnival season at Venice. When we trained through that dampest With that party of jolly Venetians That at first we mistook for the Browns? How, after the ball, I was married, In joke, to an angel in black—the entire senate and are widening rapidly the breach between the two bodies which was already as wide as that between the Lords and Commons. In the latest article Mr. Dingley starts out with the sentence: "It is said that President McKinley is much disappointed over the senate committee's tariff bill. Senators ask who the 'it' who has 'said' such a thing for President McKinley, who is known to have absolutely refused to say any word that would seem to be an interference with the right of congress to decide tariff matters according to its own wisdom.

For they said that the marriage was legal, And things took a serious shape, Till you got up a duel and killed me, To get me out of the scrape, And I took the next steamer for Naples, And left my fair widow to fate— It's queer how her eyes come and haunt me, Whenever I'm thinking of Kate.

I could kick myself well, when I think that I played such an asinine role, And I pray that you'll bury the secret Deep down in your innermost soul, For my Kate would make things rather lively.

For me, if she ever found out, And now I will tell in what manner Our little affair came about.

We met on the steamer from Naples, Whence I sailed, as you know, for the States; And at the table kind fortune had placed me In the chair which was opposite Kate's. She's a friend of the Browns, Bob, a beauty, With manners both arch and demure; And she's tall, and her eyes, if you saw them, Would remind you of Venice, I'm sure.

In the nook just back of the wheel-house, We talked not only in joyous and easy, Saw the waters grow dark in the twilight, And the moon's silver bridge cross the wave.

The rest is the usual story, Which no one knows better than you. We'll be married tonight, and I'll pause here.

And I'll see you some more when we're through.

POSTSCRIPT. Well, it's done, Bob! and—would you believe it?—She knows all about that affair, And that was the Browns' party—great Caesar!

They did us up brown, I declare, And I love her the more (but this follows, Of course, when such cases arise), For I've married—just think—my own widow.

Je-rusalem!!! Yours, Jack Vanstie.

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